



Italian industry Performing well in spite of scandals



New electricity from old tyres



Georgian rebel Two-edged sword for Shevardnadze



FINANCIAL TIMES

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20 1993

Taiwan seeks new talks with BAe on aircraft deal

Taiwan Aerospace Corporation is seeking a fresh start to talks with British Aerospace on their troubled and drawn out efforts to set up a joint venture to manufacture regional jets. Page 14

Strikers halt Paris flights: Striking Air France workers brought chaos to the two main Paris airports, forcing flights to be cancelled for much of the afternoon. Cancellations were likely today for some flights, said Air France. Page 14

Haiti leader ignores deadline:



Lt Gen Raoul Cedras (left), Haiti's army commander, smoked and swapped jokes as he ignored demands to respect the United Nations-brokered plan allowing the country's exiled president to return, despite the reimposition of an international embargo. Stx US and three Cana-

dian navy ships were offshore to enforce the embargo, and a French frigate was sailing to join them. Britain is also to send a frigate. Page 6

ICL launches EC-based computer: An advanced computer system, based on technology developed in Europe and paid for by the European Community's main information technology research programme, is launched today by ICL.

Italy tightens control on secret services: Italy's intelligence services are to be reorganised under a single authority, controlled directly by the prime minister, after mounting evidence that el ments of the country's intelligence community were linked to organised crime and at least partially responsible for terrorist acts. Page 2

Israeli political prisoner freed: Israel freed its longest-held Palestinian political prisoner. beginning the process of releasing up to 12,000 Palestinians from Israeli jails. Page 4

Vauxhali enters credit card market: Vauxhall Motors, a subsidiary of General Motors, has become the first UK car manufacturer to enter the credit card market, launching a UK version of the GM card available in the US. The card will offer customers a discount of up to £2,500 (\$3,770) on a new Vauxhall vehicle. Page 8

Japan protests over nuclear dump: Tokyo protested to Moscow over Russian dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan at the weekend which has caused wide anger in Japan, but Russia said the practice might continue. The US urget Russia to honour an international moratorium on dumping nuclear waste at sea. Page 5

End of an era for Lohnro: Tiny Rowland's reign as undisputed master of Lohnro ended when the international group's board agreed to the appointment of non-executives directors - nominated by Dieter Bock, the group's joint chief executive - for the first time in 20 years. Page 15

Gatt settlement at risk: Refusal by the US to open falls with the European Community on "clarifying" the Blair House farm trade agree ment will make it hard to conclude the Uruguay Round world trade reform talks by their December 15 deadline, Mr René Steichen, EC agriculture commissioner, warned. Page 7; Poultry producers join revisionists, Page 24

Major's doubts on Ulster peace: The UK prime minister, John Major, discounted the possibility that the peace initiative between two Northern Irish nationalist leaders will lead to a breakthrough in attempts to secure peace in Northern Ireland. Major to hear new overture of peace from Ulster,

UK gilts: The December long gilt future reached a new contract high of 114.26 after the Bank of England announced there would be no gilt auction in November and dealers speculated that October's auction might be the last this year. Page 15; Lex.

Citicorp, the US's largest banking group, saw an 18 per cent rise in third-quarter after-tax earnings compared with the previous three months, and reported a better than expected decline in credit costs. Page 15

Kasparov keeps chess title: Garry Kasparov retained his world champion title in the London chess championship after drawing against Nigel Short in the 19th game. He has an unbeatable 12-7 score in the 24-game series, but needs a further half point to win the championship.

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Brussels targets Akzo in antitrust investigation

By Andrew Hill in Brussels and Ronald van de Krol

THE EUROPEAN Commission believes Akzo, the Dutch chemicals group, has hindered an investigation into what could be a serious breach of EC competi-

The Commission inquiry is believed to focus on Akzo's grow-

ing dominance of the salt market. following the group's takeover of Dansk Salt of Denmark earlier this year. Akzo claims to be the

world's biggest salt producer. Brussels yesterday threatened Akzo with a daily penalty of Ecu1,000 (\$1,170) because its antitrust investigators were refused access to the group's headquar-ters in Arnhem earlier this month. The threat was lifted

after Akzo allowed the Commis-sion to enter its offices. Akzo claims that when the EC

team first visited Arnhem, it was not authorised to carry out a search. The same team was allowed to enter the offices of Akzo Chemicals at other locations in the Netherlands.

"They hadn't done their homework," said one Akzo executive yesterday. "We co-operate with

these studies because we have nothing to hide, but when they have the wrong documents we

will not allow them in. However, Brussels officials denied they needed specific authorisation. In a strongly worded statement, the Commission said it would "under no circumstances" tolerate attempts to escape such investigations, commonly known as "dawn raids".

Raids are carried out without warning when Brussels suspects an infringement of EC rules, particularly in cases involving alleged price-fixing, or abuse of a Neither Akzo nor the Commis-

company's dominant position. sion would comment on the reason for the raids, which took place on October 6 and 7, but industry sources suggested that the inquiry followed complaints by Danish consumers and competitors in the salt market. Akzo, in addition to acquiring Dansk Salt, last month, took a majority stake in a Danish producer of food ingredients, which owns an Icelandic salt manufacturer.

Most of the 15m tonnes of salt produced by Akzo annually is intended for use in industrial electrolysis by the chemicals

Flynn sets 5% jobless target for Community

Brussels package urges restraint on wages and cut in work hours

By David Goodhart in Brussels

THE EUROPEAN Commission is calling for wage restraint, a reduction in companies' welfare obligations, and tax incentives for training, as part of a radical plan to cut unemployment in the European Community from the current 10.4 per cent to 5 per cent

The plan, spelt out yesterday by Mr Padraig Flynn, the EC social affairs commissioner, aims to combine "solidarity and competitiveness" and will form a key element of Mr Jacques Delors' white paper on growth, competi-tiveness and employment, due to be published next month.

Although Mr Flynn rejected wholesale labour market deregulation, he went further than before in detailing the changes required to traditional forms of labour protection and the sacrifices that will have to be made by

the securely employed. "I believe we should encourage increases in hourly wages below the rate of productivity growth, not in order to reduce wages, but in order to increase the number of jobs that can be made available." Mr Flynn told a conference on employment in Europe, organised by the Commission.

He also suggested employers' non-wage social security costs be less regressive to create more jobs for the less skilled and proposed switching some of those costs from employers to general

This attempt to reduce the price of labour will be greeted with suspicion by Europe's trade unions. However, Mr Flynn has

"Europe needs a new solidarity between those with work and those without, and between those who earn their income from

wages and from investments." He also urged a progressive reduction in average hours of work per employee and for "minimising the financial incentives for longer hours among the better paid". Tinkering with the old system would no longer suffice and "reregulation" was required to take account of labour market changes, such as the increase in part-time and temporary work. He proposed, for example, the restructuring of government income support schemes to be combined with income from

"Our labour markets suffer from a series of discontinuities and distortions. They have grown up over the years, with template overlaying template, in taxation, in social protection, in regulation," he said.

But the answer, he concluded, was not to "simplistically abolish regulation". Otherwise the whole burden of change would be borne by the weakest and employee motivation would suffer.

Mrs Miet Smets, the Belgian labour minister, said the EC should not be made a scapegoat for unemployment and claimed that without its efforts the position would be worse. She pro-posed an EC-wide energy tax to promote employment and more career breaks to create jobs.

in the UK, Lord Henley, partiamentary undersecretary of state, said declining competitiveness was at the root of Europe's jobs problem. Social protection would couched the changes in terms not be abandoned but greater the upturn prompted renewed that will appeal to the left: flexibility was needed, he added.



Benazir Bhutto, who was sworn in as Pakistani prime minister yesterday, confers with former caretaker prime minister Balkh Sher Mazari Bhutto reform pledge, Page 4; Editorial Comment, Page 13

Major hints at tax increases

By Philip Stephens

MR JOHN MAJOR, the UK prime minister, yesterday shrugged off concern that the economic recovery in Britain may be faltering and reinforced expectations at Westminster of higher taxes in

next month's Budget.

Amid angry exchanges in the House of Commons with Mr John Smith, the opposition Labour party leader, Mr Major also hinted that the Treasury will seek to raise part of the additional revenue it needs by closing so-called-tax loopholes

Mr Major's upbeat ass that the economic recovery will be sustained followed a warning to the cabinet from Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, that the government's £50bn (\$75bn) borrowing requirement must be reduced

But fears that recession elsewhere in Europe and weakening consumer confidence could abort the upturn prompted renewed

servative backbench MPs about a recommendation from the Treathe risks of large tax increas While a majority of Tory MPs pear resigned to an overall rise in tax of 12bn or £3bn, Mr Clarke was told at an 80-strong meeting last night of the party's backbench finance committee to rule

out higher income taxes.

Mr John Townend, the chairman of the committee, said afterwards the general view was that Mr Clarke should do nothing to prejudice the economic recovery. That caution was reinforced by

sury's panel of outside economic advisers that Mr Clarke should opt for only a "modest" tighten-ing of fiscal policy next year. The advisers said this should be accompanied by an early cut in interest rates and by a mediumterm package of spending and tax measures to reduce borrowing. After an hour-long cabinet dis-

cussion of the economic outlook, Continued on Page 14 Lex, Page 14

Bundesbank warns of threat from growth in derivatives

By David Waller in Frankfurt

THE BUNDESBANK today warns that the growth of derivatives markets could endanger the stability of the world financial sys-

In its monthly report, the German central bank argues that the increase in the use of options, futures and other complex derivative instruments has led to an interlinking of the world's financial markets that makes them more "vulnerable to crisis".

The bank's concerns echo fears voiced last year by other leading regulators, including Mr Gerald Corrigan, then president of the New York Federal Reserve Board, However, recent reports, including one by the Bank of England, have adopted a more conciliatory tone.

Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on underlying assets, such as a currency, interest rate or share price. The Bundesbank calculates such transactions for German banks alone totalled DM6,116bn (\$3,775.30) in mid-1993, which is the equivalent of 90 per cent of the balance sheets of the entire German banking sector.

The notional amount of futures contracts traded on the world's exchanges every year has reached \$140,000bn, while the notional outstanding amount of swaps (contracts entered directly between banks) is about \$4,500bn. In today's report the Bundesbank recognises the positive

Continued on Page 14 Corrigan for Goldman, Page 15 Survey, Section III

Philip Morris profits cut by 25% in cigarette price war

in New York

THE cigarette price war raging in the US took its toll on Philip Morris, the world's biggest cigarette manufacturer, yesterday by wiping 25 per cent of the company's third-quarter profits.

Net earnings were \$971m compared with \$1,29bn in the same quarter last year. The figures were worse than the market had feared and the share price fell \$1% to \$52%. Philip Morris triggered the price war in April by cutting 20

per cent off the price of its pre-mium brands - notably Marlboro, its top-selling product, but also Benson & Hedges, Merit, Parliament and Virginia Slims.

share being made by low-price saw a 12 per cent fall in operating

cigareties, taken to be a further sign of the trend for consumers to switch to cheaper products. The price cuts produced a fall of 16 per cent in Philip Morris's US tobacco revenues in the third quarter, causing a 53 per cent slump in the division's operating

profits to \$615m. But the company took consolation from a 1.7 percentage point increase in its share of the US cigarette market to 25.7 per cent. Most of the rest of the group performed well. The international tobacco business showed a 15 per cent increase in operating profits to \$678m, North American food increased operating profits

per cent to \$94m.

The company was responding to the inroads into its market

profits to \$243m because of adverse currency movements and exceptional gains from asset sales the previous year. Group turnover for the quarter was up 1.4 per cent at \$15.2bn,

while net earnings per share were down 23 per cent at \$1.11. Mr Michael Miles, chairman and chief executive, said: "Our overall results indicate that our business strategies are proving effective in very difficult economic and competitive circum-

The pressure on US cigarette prices seems likely to last and analysts are gloomy about the prospects of a recovery from this part of the group's operations.

by 10 per cent to \$586m, and the But Ms Leigh Ferst, of Pruden-tial Securities, said: "If they can Miller Brewing Company increased operating profits by 71 stop the decline in US cigarette International foods, however, profits, there is growth in the rest of the business.

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LONDON - PARIS - FRANKFURT - NEW YORK - TOKYO

Bonn urged to reform jobs market

and more market-oriented. Mr Friedrich, whose forth-

right style reflects many years

working as an economist in the

US before returning to take up

his position at the Dresdner

measures contained in economics minister Mr Gunter

Rexrodt's recently published

paper on "Securing the Future of Germany's Economic Base".

which calls for privatisation and increased labour market

flexibility as a cure for Ger-

head and its heart in the right

place," said Mr Friedrich. "But

the question is, does it have

the muscle? Can it be imple-

Mr Friedrich said it was

obvious what had to be done in

economic terms. The difficul-

ties in implementing deregula-tion lay in the political arena,

he said. Radical measures

would be especially difficult to

implement in 1994, an election

production with cheaper

denounced by the SPD, which

wants Germany to abandon

nuclear energy, as "attempted

blackmail" at the expense of

Protesting miners blocked

the main road to the parlia-

ment quarter in Bonn waving

banners denouncing Mr Günter

Reynolt, the economics minis-

ter responsible for the energy

industry, as a "job killer".

The plan was immediately

nuclear electricity.

The Rexrodt paper has its

many's economic woes.

mented in practice?"

SPD support needed

for coal compromise

Bank last year, praised the

By David Waller in Frankfurt

THE chief economist of Germany's second biggest bank has called for a removal of the obstacles burdening the German labour market.

Mr Klaus Friedrich, chief economist at Dresdner Bank, who was speaking in Frankfurt on Monday night, said the labour market in Germany was so encrusted with inflexibilities that it functioned as if it were not a market at all.

He dismissed the tendency of German companies to put workers on to "short-time" whereby employees receive a government-subsidised wage even though they are no longer working - as "macro-economic nonsense".

He reserved the same judgment for any deal between unions and employers which provided job guarantees in return for low wage increases. The powerful IG Metall union has suggested a moratorium on jobs in return for moderate

The only thing that matters is to have healthily functioning companies," Mr Friedrich said. That means better deployment of capital, workers and

management."
Such views, while undoubt-

By Quentin Peel in Bonn

LEADERS of Germany's ruling

coalition yesterday agreed a

compromise which would pro-

vide guaranteed finance for

German coal production up to

the year 2000, but not beyond.

on agreement with the opposi-

tion Social Democrats (SPD) on

continued electricity produc-

tions - in order to cross-subsid-

ise expensive coal-fired power

tion from nuclear power sta-

The deal depends, however,

boost aid to east Germany By David Marsh and Stewart Dalby

EC will

THE European Community is edly shared by many senior likely at least to double its aid German executives, are rarely to east Germany next year voiced by consensus-minded from the current annual figure members of the German finanof Boulbn (£770m) to try to cial and industrial establishnarrow the region's economic ment. They hint at pressures gap with the rest of the EC. for Germany's "social-market" Mr Bruce Millan, commiseconomy to become less social

sioner for regional policy, said in London yesterday that east Germany was due to receive a "very considerable" increase in structural fund payments next year, but did not give a The payments would rise as

eastern Germany was brought fully into the mechanism for channelling money to regions with gross domestic product per head of less than 75 per cent of the EC average. In parts of east Germany, the figure was only 30-40 per cent, Mr Millan said. "The

scale of problems is unbeliev-His comments reflect a desire by the Commission to show that the EC is taking east Germany's structural

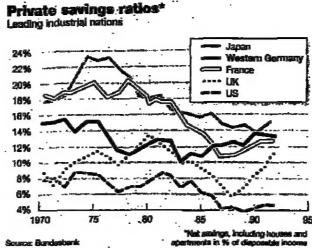
Anti-EC feeling in Germany seems partly to reflect the belief that the Community is leaving west Germany to shoulder the burden alo view put last month by Mr Jürgen Sarrazin, chief execu-tive of Dresdner Bank.

Separately, Mr Millan held out the hope of EC cash for British local authorities seeking funds for tourism and urban regeneration projects in southern England. He said criteria on struc-

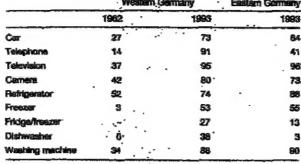
tural funding for areas in industrial decline had been widened to include those suffering from problems in nontraditional industries. In a map submitted by the

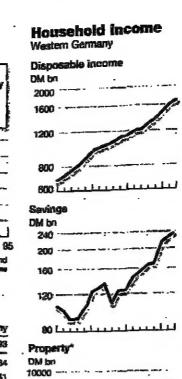
UK government, London and south coast towns like Brighton are included for the first time among applicants for structural aid to Britain which could amount to £1bn a

These southern areas often have urban problems and fading tourism industries.









80 85 1975

Total housing, consumer durables and money assets not of interest commitment

Germans ensure even the bad times are good

By Christopher Parkes in Frankfurt

THE state may be going broke. industry may be flat on its back, but the west German citizen is still doing very nicely. thank you (see charts above).

The average family has financial reserves worth some DMI10,000 (£44,700) and has no debt troubles, according to a Bundesbank study of post-war household wealth in Germany, published today in its October monthly report.

including houses, other prop-erty and consumer durables, net personal assets in the region totalled well over DM8,000bn at the end of last year. This national nest-egg has grown more than 50 per cent faster than disposable incomes in the past 20 years. and in the meantime real per

put has exceeded the European Community average by a third. The implied message in this brief history of good times past - published as the

national debate on the future of Germany's economic and social system comes to a head - is that the population can tolerate belt-tightening by government and industry without too much grief.

More explicit is a warning to east Germans that getting rich requires hard work. Wealth creation in the former GDR has advanced relatively quickly, the report says. But further progress along this road cannot be expected from west German transfers ... it will depend far more on increased production and

incomes. Three years after unification, and thanks largely to handouts from Bonn totalling around DM180bn this year alme. almost two-thirds of households in the east already have at least one car compared with 73 per cent in the west; the place is saturated cent of homes have a washing

machine, the report says. Since unification, and despite the shopping extravaganza which followed, private financial reserves in the former communist command economy have grown a third to an average M30,000 per

household. Disposable incomes have increased a real 17 per cent. although they are still only 55 per cent of western levels. As the growth in their private cap-ital base demonstrates, despite their relative poverty, eastern-ers share that great German virtue - thrift - with western-

They save around 13 per cent of their disposable income, compared with 14 per cent in the west, and they keep almost 80 per cent of their funds in banks and building societies.

Westerners, on the other hand, spread their piles more widely. Around 30 per cent of their funds are locked up in pensions and life insurance A further quarter is invested

in securities, but since caution is the watchword, most of that is in bonds or similar Only a token DM128bn - or 4

per cent of total private capital assets - is at the mercy of the the stock market.

According to Bundesbank estimates, annual dividends and interest earnings of DM173bn, account for 8.5 per cent of total west German private incomes. Bricks and mortar have

gained popularity only slowly. The rate of home ownership in west Germany has increased from 38 per cent to around 50 per cent in the past 30 years, but still lags behind other EC countries and the US. Although home loans account for three-quarters of total private debt of DM1,215bn in the west, high land and construction prices discourage wouldbe buyers, the report says.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rome tightens up on intelligence services

By Robert Graham in Rome

ITALY'S intelligence services are to be reorganised under a single authority, controlled directly by the prime minister.

This was the outcome of a special meeting called on Monday evening by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of the senior ministers. defence chiefs and heads of the intelligence services. The meeting had been prompted by mounting evidence that elements of italy's intelligence community were linked to organised crime and had been behind acts of terrorism.

Legislation outlining the new authority is expected to be submitted to parliament in the form of a decree by the end of the month. The two principal existing agencies - Sisde (domestic intelligence) and Sismi (military intelligence) - will disappear. They will be replaced by two revamped organisations whose responsibilities will be split between domestic and foreign intelli-

Hungary targets 1956 crimes

Hungary, after several fruitless attempts, is to endeavour again in bring officials of the former communist regime to justice after parliament yesterday opened the way for war crimes trials, writes Nicholas Denton in Budapest. Prosecutions will centre on torture, mass shootings and other "inhuman" means used to suppress the 1956 revolution. That uprising against Soviet occupation and communist rule left 2 500 dead and many more pation and communist rule left 2,500 dead and many more injured. Few cases are likely to go before the courts and legal experts expect sentences to be light, even suspended. Some veterans of 1956 even argue for an amnesty, after justice is done.

Italy's 10-day protest begins

A nationwide strike by Italian transport workers yesterday heralded the start of 10 days of serious labour protests by the country's air, maritime and rail workers, writes Robert Graham in Rome. The protests will culminate in a four-hour general strike scheduled for October 28.

Like the strike called by the three main trade union confederations, the protests in the transport sector are directed against the government's 1994 austerity budget and the growing threat of unemployment. Transport workers are also angry about planned new regulations in the sector and cuts in investment. Union officials said port workers would strike today and tomorrow.

Airlines push EC on services



Five leading European airlines yesterday pressed the European Commission to ban ground-handling monopolies at airports throughout the EC. writes Paul Betts, Aerospace Correspondent. Senior direc-tors of British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa of Germany, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Scandinavian Airlines System told Mr Karel van Miert, the EC competition commissioner, and other officials in Brussels that ground-handling charges at monopoly airports were almost a third higher than those at airports where airlines are free to provide their own services or choose other suppliers. They have aiready filed formal complaints with the EC.

Spanish general assassinated

Two gunmen killed a Spanish air force general and seriously wounded his chauffeur as they drove through a central Madrid shopping district yesterday, police said. AP reports from Madrid. The gummen, believed to belong to the Basque separatist group Eta, fled the scene in a car they later blew up. Police identified the murdered officer as General Dionisio Herrero Albinana, 63, who was on the staff of the air force's health department.

Danish unions alter course

Tradition and values in the Danish trade union movement are undergoing radical change, according to a membership study published by the Confederation of Danish Trade Unions, writes Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen. Some 77 per cent of trade unionists attach more importance to having an interesting job and a good working environment (77 per cent) than to high wages (33 per cent). Strikes and labour conflict are supported by only 8 per cent of the 3,390 members in the survey. The vast majority believed labour problems should be resolved through negotiation.

Judge overrules decision to shelve inquiry into PDS finances

Probe of Italian party to go ahead

By Robert Graham in Rome

THE Milan judiciary has decided to proceed with inves-tigations into alleged illicit financing of the former communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS).

The decisions follows a serious split in the ranks of Milan magistrates over whether or not to shelve the investigations that involve Mr Marcello Stefamini the PDS treasurer, as well a former party official. Mr Primo Greganti.

The Milan attorney-general last week decided to discontinue the inquiries. He also took the unusual step of

Mr Alberto Predieri, liquidator of the Efim state industrial holding, has requested Milan magistrates to investigate 41 executives linked to companies within Efim, writes Robert Graham in Rome. The move was revealed by Mr Predieri yesterday in evidence to a parliamentary committee. He gave few details, saying the matters to be investigated related to the companies'

Efim was placed in voluntary liquidation in July 1992 with outstanding debts of L18,000bn (\$11bn). The rescue operation has already cost the Treasury some L10,000bn and the eventual cost is likely to be close to L18,000bn.

magistrates the one person who had dissented and who was responsible for implicating Mr Stefanini, a senator, in

However, his decision on the case had to be approved by a judge of first instance who yes-

terday ruled that further inqui-

ries were necessary before the case could be closed. This is the first time during the country's corruption scandals that genuine doubt has been sown about the involve-

ment of top officials receiving

tions. The PDS has consistently denied the party was involved in illegal practices, and the most it has conceded is failing to declare to the tax authorities the full amount received on a property transaction. Where individuals have been accused of corruption, the party has always said this was an individual matter.

However, at least three businessmen have claimed they paid first Communist party and then PDS officials on behalf of the party. The PDScontrolled co-operative movement is also under investigation for helping to provide under-the-counter financing.

Queen jeered as Cypriots recall two bitter episodes

By Michael Holman

POLICE in Nicosia yesterday sprayed tear-gas at schoolchildren demonstrating against a controversial visit to Cyprus by Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen's visit, planned as part of the Commonwealth Conference which opens tomorrow has revived bitter memories of two critical periods in the island's history the struggle for independence from Britain and the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974, which has left it

The Queen, in Nicosia to receive the key of the city, was greeted by jeering Greek Cypriots who yelled: "We don't want you here." Earlier, police had used tear gas to disperse dozens of schoolchildren to clear the road for the Queen.

At the ceremony, the mayor of Nicosia, Mr Lellos Demetriades, told the Queen: "The city has the unenviable title of the last divided capital in Europe." Outside, angry demonstrators recalled the island's guerrilla war for independence from Britain in the 1950s when EOKA guerrillas fought for unity between Cyprus and

In 1955, Britain hanged nine men accused of guerrilla activity. The Queen had turned down pleas for mercy. Many Cypriots also resent

events of 1974, when Greek Cypriots still boping for union with Greece, staged a short-lived coup against the then-president Makarios,

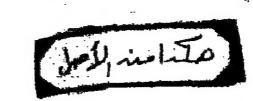
Turkey, which raled Cyprus for more than 300 years, responded by invading the north of the island, saying it had to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority. ● As Greek-Cypriots jeered

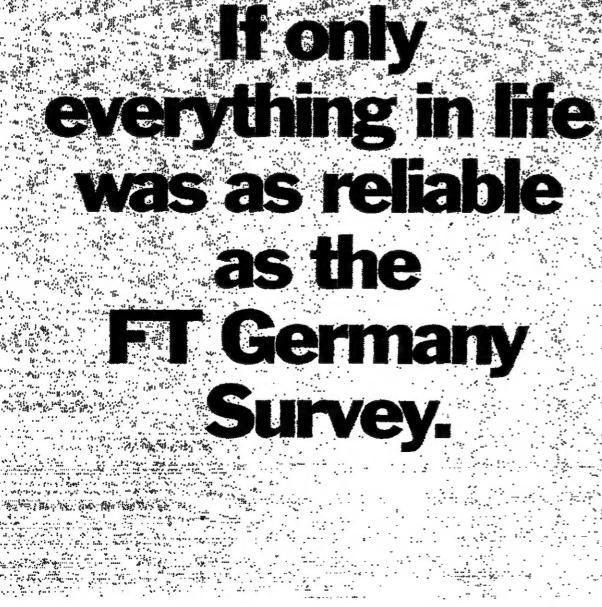
the Queen during her visit to Nicosia she was able to chat amicably with peacekeepers from her country's former Faiklands conflict adversary Argentina, Reuter reports from Nicosia. The Argentinians later stood firmly to attention as a British military band played "God save the Queen".

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Gone are the days when the German economy could make the same claims as its

Unification, cutbacks, looming elections and racial tension now point to a rather unpredictable future.

The Financial Times Survey on Germany will be published next Monday. It will look at political and social upheaval, and how this changing country plans to retain its position as Europe's economic leader.

FT Germany Survey.

FT. Because business is never black and white.

now that president's forces threaten to deprive him of office. Mr Eduard Shevardnadze has had a traumatising 18 months as Georgia's head of state. Today he sits, amid the ruin of all his hopes, in the building from which Mr Zviad Gamsakhurdia was forced in

January 1992. As the "Zviadists" advance toward Tbilisi, Mr Shevardnadze turns in desperation to Russia, begging to be let in to the Confederation of Independent States, in which he saw "no future" last year. Russia is reasserting its hegemony over many of the former Soviet republics, and especially his: a Russia which "is putting its empire together again", in the words of veteran commentator Mr Levan Khaindrava.

Mr Shevardnadze told Georgian politicians and intellectuals on Monday: "We will not be able to live if we cannot settle matters with Russia."

He encouraged the view that he was Georgia's last hope after a coalition of paramilitary and political forces violently ousted Mr Gamsakhurdia. Now, after becoming one of the most famous statesmen of the late 20th century as Soviet foreign minister, he has little to show for his return to the state where he was once Communist party leader.

RUSSIA'S defence minister, Mr Pavel Grachev, said yesterday his country could not help in Georgia with military action,

as this could be interpreted as interfering in the internal affairs of another country, Reuter reports. But Mr Grachev. on a visit to Finland, said Russian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Georgian troops could go to Toilisi at the request of Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, to secure supplies of food and medicine into the country. Rebeis backing ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have

made strong gains in western Georgia in recent days, threatening supplies to the capital. "Georgia is an independent state with which Russia does not have any agreement on mutual military co-operation. Georgia is not a CIS country and is not thus part of collective security arrangements," Mr Grachev said. His comments followed a late-night appeal for military help by Mr

Defending, in an interview last week, his decision to take Georgia into the CIS, he said, The CIS is not a powerful union, so we don't have to sacrifice much of our sovereignty." Yet the very prostration of his country calls into question how much of that

"sovereignty" is left. The economy is ruined. Mr Gia Nodia, who runs Tbilisi's only independent think-tank, says a basic food basket for a month costs \$20 (£13.20); the official average salary, paid in the wildly inflating coupon, is \$2 a month. Bread lines for loaves priced at the equivalent of one fifth of a cent are mas-

the black market to Armenian and other traders. Since Mr Gamsakhurdia's forces took the junction town of Samtredia last Sunday, food in the port of Batumi is denied the capital, and supplies are down to a week or two.

Unemployment is at least 50 per cent, and the streets are crowded with lounging men. In the second city of Kutaisi, now directly threatened by Mr Gamsakhurdia, the big truck plant "barely works", according to the mayor, who adds that "most enterprises work at around 30 per cent capacity at most. Anyway, who needs what they produce?"
The republic of 5.5m people

ulation, are down to a few thousand and they are trying lage in the Svanetian moun-tains next to Abkhazia, speak of bideous atrocities. Mr Levan Amliani, who fled Sukhumi three weeks ago, said he saw the bodies of women with

> The other two autonomous regions of Georgia are also wholly or partly lost to Tbilisi. South Ossetia, scene of murderous fighting three years ago, is now de facto occupied by Russian troops - and is peaceful. Ajaria, the southern part-Moslem region, is peaceful but prefers Moscow to Tbilisi.

breasts cut off; men hanged

and nailed to crosses; and - a

recurring, nightmarish tale -

men and women with throats

cut and tongue pulled through the gash to make an "Abkha-

is dismembered. The fall of the resort town of Sukhumi at the end of September ended the Georgian military presence in the province of Abkhazia, which has been agitating for independence for two years and has now declared itself an independent state. It is now another land which is undergo-BLACK SEA ing "ethnic cleansing": Geor-gians, once nearly half the pop-Refugees in Chubery, a vil-AZERBAIJAN

> army. Thus, he has had to rely increasingly on the showy, violent, semi-criminal band known as the Mekhedrioni. who owe their loyalty (and their pay) to Mr Jaba Josseliani, now effectively second man after the president. Imprisoned by Mr Gamsakhur-dia, he has been more or less loyal to Mr Shevardnadze and his bandit-like force has provided the spine of the state's

military arm. Though he came in with a string of western friends, Mr Shevardnadze has had nothing from the west but concerned words. "He addressed many love letters to them," says Mr

way, "but it was in the end platonic." Even Mr Tedo Japaridze, his national security adviser, concedes that "he raised too many hopes about

Mr Japaridze claims that, in a meeting with President Bill Clinton, he was told that Georbeing in the Russian sphere of influence. He also says that President Boris Yeltsin told Mr Clinton at the Group of Seven meeting in Tokyo that if Russia were to leave the Caucasus, "they would murder each other". It is widely believed that Russians have been helping the murdering, by providaratists and at least allowing in guerrilla forces from the Russian northern Caucasus. Mr Shevardnaze believes that Mr Yeltsin did not sanction this and that he represents the "progressive Russia" with which Georgia can live; others believe all the Russians are the

No-one pushes these points harder than Mr Gamsakhurdia. Interviewed at the weekend in his headquarters city of Zugdidi, the former president, soft-spoken and only occasion-ally portraying the immense paranoia of former years, inveighed against the "crimi-nal bands" of Mr Shevardnadze and promised to rid Georgia of them. His prime minister in exile, Mr Pessarion Gugushvili, said: "Everything we said about Shevardnadze has proven to be true. He has ruined his country and is delivering it to the Russians."

same, and they want Georgia

Georgia was as pleasant a place as could be found in the Soviet Union's last years, its towns relatively gracious, its climate warm, its people notoriously hospitable. Now it is grim, squalid, nervy, riven with conflict and patrolled by unpredictable thugs with automatics who answer to unknown authorites or none. Russia may in the end save the republic. Georgia's wild spree of independence is coming to

Russian parties warned to co-operate

By Leyla Boulton in Moscos

A SENIOR official in President Boris Yeltsin's administration yesterday warned Russia's pro-reform parties they should co-operate over the December 12 elections or be denounced as being unwilling to do so

"for the good of Russia". Mr Vyacheslav Volkov, dep nty head of the president's administration, said Russia's Choice, set up at the weekend by supporters of Mr Yeltsin and a number of anti-Communist parties, would convene leaders of all similar groups two weeks before the elections. Politicians who rejected an agreement "not to get in each other's way and not shoot arrows at each other" would be publicly denounced.

This ultimatum will further fuel discontent about heavyhandedness and bullying from the president's supporters.

Mr Konstantin Borovoi, head of the liberal Economic Freedom party, who has refused to join Russia's Choice, even though he shares its economic platform, rejected "co-operation proposed in the form of blackmail...if they continue this way we will boy-

- S

Sarajevo flame dies under Serb rain of death

By Laura Silber in Sarajevo

artillery bombardments and the stanch of explosives has reminded the inhabitants of Serajevo that in spite of a two-month hull and the push for a settlement in Geneva, Serb besiegers can wreak havoc on their lives at

Using 152mm artillery, the biggest in their arsenal, Serb fighters have again been pounding the city from their

This latest obslaught mocks any attempt to maintain a sem-blance of normal life in the valley below, Efforts by the UN to clear the rubble-strewn streets, restore power, water and telephone lines or repair the tram lines in the devastated city pappear utterly absurd, given the Serbs' ability to strike at

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The UN's "clean city" operation has so far done little more than provide an extra role for its 5,000 soldiers encamped

Bombarding the city with artillery and mortars as well as targeting civilian areas with anti-sircraft guns, Serb chieftains, bolstered by their Croat counterparts and western indifference, are killing whatever spirit remains in the Bosnian

Despite brave efforts to maintain a core of tolerance, many people fear they have tost the battle to preserve the centuries-old mixed ethnic

identity of Sarajevo. As winter descends from the encircling mountains, people are desperate to abandon the city they all vowed to save.

Exhausted, "Sarajlija", the Serbo-Croat word for the city's inhabitants, no longer debate the future shape of their country. While they dismiss as unfair" the Geneva plan to split Bosnia into three, few hold out hope of a better agreement. They criticise their gov-ernment sharply for failing either to obtain weapons or

An overwhelming majority f citizens simply want the guns to fall silent. They spend their time devising ways to survive until somehow they can get out of Sarajevo. As they enter their second winter of war, the fear of bombardment is mingled with a dread of cold and disease.

In the anxiety to tap into the city's barely functioning naturai gas system, Sarajevo homes have become fire hazards, say UN officials. When Serb besiegers allow supplies through, city dwellers rig up a tangle of rubber garden hoses to channel in small amounts of natural gas.

Epidemics pose another threat. Local entrepreneurs have formed a company to infest the city. There is also a order. Gangsters have been snatching UN vehicles.

While most people speak of an intense desire to leave instead of struggling through another winter, few have real hope of getting out. Even if the Moslem-led Bosnian government gives permission, Serb leaders have raised objections with the UN over "violations" of the airport agreement which only allows transport of humanitarian aid.

The spirit of Sarajevo still persists. Even after 18 months of war, vestiges of a cosmopolitan life have endured, distinguishing it from other cities in Rosnia under the control of Serb and Croat regimes.

Performing artists and writers have worked to maintain cultural life, organising art exhibits, plays, concerts, and fashion shows, including one with materials made entirely of reinforced window plastic provided by the UN refugee

But this spirit of resistance is weak and no match for the Serbian guns. Even those most dedicated to its preservation say there is little chance of life in the city in the future. A combination of anger at their Serb adversaries and the incompetence of the west have

With their bombs, Serb leaders appear ready to stop at nothing until the Moslems endorse a peace plan which formally puts an end to their

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The Mechanical Industry and Armament Sector Conversion Brussels, 29-30 November 1993 **BUSINESS MEETING**



in Brussels on the 29th and 30th of November, 1993, a delegation of 25 managers of the most important Slovak groups will present the firms of the Slovak mechanical engineering and metalworking sectors, and discuss with West European companies the opportunities for cooperation.

The presentation will cover: Products, Technologies, Equipment, Know-how of the Slovak Armament Industry, Conversion Programmes, Sub-contracting Capacities, Slovak Policy for Privatisation and Restructuring of Mechanical Groups. The reputation and skill of the Slovak mechanical engineers, the cost structure and other advantages of the sector will be highlighted.

This meeting is being organised with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, PHARE Programme for Privatisation and Restructuring, and the Government of the Slovak Republic.

For registration, please contact: Pascal ROGER, Carlos de LOS LLANOS, Tel: 33 1 40 92 45 77 Fax: 33 1 42 53 91 16 SOFRES Conseil 16, rue Barbès F-92129 Montrouge Cedex

ITALY'S LEADING PRIVATE BANK AMBROVENERO

Ambrosiano Veneto



New premier faces economic difficulties but seeks opposition co-operation in efforts to form stable government

Bhutto promises to continue reforms

in Islamabad

MS BENAZIR Bhutto was sworn in as Pakistan's 16th prime minister yesterday, marking a political comeback almost three years after her previous government's dis-

Ms Bhutto, 40, polled 121 votes from her Pakistan Peo-ple's party (PPP) and its allies, against 72 for Mr Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Moslem League (PML), in a parliamentary vote.

At least eight members abstained during voting in the 217 seat National Assembly, the lower house of parliament. These included six members belonging to Islamic parties which consider the rule by a woman to be against their reli-

Her victory was also strengthened by the first signs

for the smooth functioning of PPP's candidate in elections for the speaker of the provin-cial assembly polled 121 votes against the PML nominee's 107. further details. That result, ahead of today's elections for the provincial government, finally confirmed

Ms Bhutto's lead. In her acceptance speech, Ms Bhutto sought the co-operation of the opposition in her efforts to form a stable government. She said Pakistan was under pressure on the nuclear issue, the spread of narcotics and terrorism, and faced economic difficulties. "Our government will be one of reforms. People want a change of system not a change of faces." In response, Mr Sharif promised to support

"national interest". On the future of the eco-

actions which served the

Pakistan's largest and wealthi-est province, which is crucial prime minister, Ms Bhutto said: "We want to stimulate the central government. The the economy, and if ... steps have been taken which prevent that, we would review those steps." She did not give any

Mr Qureshi said he was encouraged by the substantial majority Ms Bhutto appeared to have obtained.

Ms Bhutto's victory ended a year of intense political turmoil which began last November when the opposition began That initiative was resisted by Mr Sharif through widespread arrests of PPP activists, showing virtually no room existed for a compromise between the

ministers and dissolving Mr Sharif's power was fur-ther curtailed when he turned Although Mr Sharif's disagainst Mr Ghulam Ishaq missal in April was followed by Khan, the former president, in an effort to repeal presidential

ment's restoration only intensified the political crisis. Both Mr Sharif and Mr Khan were forced out of office in July in a deal brokered by Gen Abdul Waheed, the army chief.

ber 6 elections have put Ms Bhutto back in power, but she is still faced with difficult odds. It is not clear how long her coalition will last, especially if Mr Sharif tries to break apart

It is also not clear that Ms Bhutto and Mr Sharif could co-operate in resolving issues such as the presidential powers for dismissal of governments. which were used against both

concerns, senior PPP leaders are confident that there is no threat of any intervention by the army, which has ruled Pakistan for 24 years of its 46.



INFORMATION FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND



ISSUE OF £3,500,000,000

6% TREASURY STOCK 1999

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 10 FEBRUARY AND 10 AUGUST FOR AUCTION ON A BID PRICE BASIS ON 27 OCTOBER 1993

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

Payment on application:

Balance of purchase money

with a competitive bid with a non-competitive bid Price bid less £50 per £100 nominal of Stock £50 per £100 nominal of Stock

£50 per £100 nominal of Stock payable on 2 December 1993

This Stock will, on Issue, be an investment falling within Part II of the First Schaule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List on 28 October 1993. 1. THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND invite bids for the above Stock.

The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the Na Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdo 3. The Stock will be repaid at par on 10 August 1999.

. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of Fingland or at the Bank of Irelan

Belfart, and will be registered at the Bank of rangiand of at the Bank of retained, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Stock registered at the Bank of England held for the account of members of the Central Gilts Office (CGO) Service will also be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by exempt transfer in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1982 and the relevant subordinate legislation. Transfers will be free of stamp daty.

5. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 10 February and 10 August. Income has will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be mansmitted by port, Interest will acrose from Transfer, 28 October 1993 and the first interest payment will be made on 10 February 1994 at the rate of £1.4384 per £100 of the Stock.

6. The Stock may be held on the National Savings Stock Register 7. The Stock and the interest psyable thereon will be exempt from all United Kingdom mantion, present or future, so long as it is shown that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither donactiled nor collinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Creat Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. Further, the interest payable on the Stock will be exempt from United Kingdom income tax, present or future, so long as it is shown that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of persons who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. For the purposes of the preceding puragraphs, persons are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom if they are regarded as not ordinarily resident for the purposes of United Kingdom income tax. 10. Applications for extemption from United Kingdom income tax should be made in such form as may be required by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the Inspector of Foreign Dividends, Inland Revenue, Lynwood Road, Tharnes Ditton, Surrey, K17 0DP.

Inland Revenue, Lynwood Road, Thomas Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0DP,

11. These exemptions will not entitle a person to claim repayment of tax deducted from interest unless the claim to such repayment is made within the time limit provided for such claims under income tax law, under the provisions of the Taxes Management Act 1970. Section 43 [1], no such claim will be outside this time limit if it is made within six years from the date of which the intreet its payable. In addition, these exemptions will not apply so as to exclude the interest from any computation for snation purposes of the profits of any brade or business carried on in the United Kingdom. Moreover, the allowance of the exemptions is subject to the provisions of any law, present or future, of the United Kingdom directed to proventing avoidance of examin by persons domiciled, resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, and, in particular, the interest will not be exempt from income tax where, under any such provision, it fulls to be treated for the purpose of the lincome Tax Acts as income of any person resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

Method of Application

12. Bids may be made on either a competitive or a non-competitive bests, as set out below, and must be submitted on the application form published with the prospectus. Each application form must comprise either one competitive bid or one non-competitive bid. Gilt-edged market makers may make competitive bids by telephone to the Bank of England not later than 10.00 am on Wednesday, 27 October 1993.

October 1993.

13. Application forms must be sent to the Bank of England, New Issues, PO Box 444. Gloucester, GL1 INP to arrive not later than 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; or lodged by hand at the Central Gilts Office, Bank of England, Bank Baukings, 19 Gid Jewry, London not later than 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; or lodged by hand at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1993. Bids will not be revocable between 10.00 am on Wednesday, 27 October 1993 and 10.00 am on Monday, 1 November 1993.

Each competitive bid must be for one amount and at one price expressed as a multiple of 1/32nd of £1 and must be for a minimum of £500,000 nominal of Stock and for a multiple of Stock as follows:

Amount of Stock applied for Multiple £500,000 -£1,000,000 . £100,000 . £100,000

(ii) Unless the applicant is a member of the CGO Service, a separate cheque representing the PAYMENT DUE ON APPLICATION, i.e. THE PRICE BID LESS ISS FOR EVERY £100 NOMINAL OF STOCK BID FOR, must accompany each competitive bid. Cheques must be drawn on a branch or office, sinusted within the Town Clearing area, of a sentement member of CHAPS and Town Clearing Company Limited.

(iii) The Bunk of England reserve the right to reject any competitive bid or part of any competitive bid. Competitive bids will be ranked in descending order of price and Stock will be sold to amplicants whose competitive bids are at or above the lowest price at which the Bank of England decide that any competitive bid should be accepted (the lowest accepted price).

APPLICANTS WHOSE COMPETITIVE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED WILL PURCHASE STOCK AT THE PRICES WHICH THEY BID: competitive bids which are accepted and which are made at prices above the lowest accepted price will be satisfied in full; competitive bids which are accepted and which are accepted price will be satisfied in full; competitive bids which are made at the lowest accepted price may be satisfied in full or in part only.

NON-COMPETITIVE BIDS A non-connectaive bid must be for not less than £1,000 nominal and not more than £500,000 nominal of Stock, and must be for a multiple of £1,000 nominal of Stock.

(iii) Unless the applicant is a member of the CGO Service, a separate cheque representing a PAYMENT AT THE RATE OF ESS FOR EVERY £100 NOMINAL OF STOCK APPLIED FOR must accompany each non-competitive bid; cheques must be drawn on a bank in, and be payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

(iv) The Bank of England reserve the right to reject any non-competitive bid. Non-competitive bids which are accepted will be accepted in full AT A PRICE (the non-competitive sale price) EQUAL TO THE AVERAGE OF THE PRICES AT WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, the average being weighted by reference to the amount accepted at each price and ROLINDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST MULTIPLE OF 1/32ND OF £1.

If the non-competitive sale price is less than £100 per £100 nominal of Stock, the amount by which the amount paid on application exceeds the non-competitive sale price less £50 per £100 nominal of Stock will be refunded by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the applicant.

If the non-competitive sale price is greater than £100 per £100 nominal of Stock, applicants whose non-competitive bids are accepted may be required to make a further payment equal to the non-competitive sale price less £100 for every £100 nominal of Stock allocated to them. An applicant from whom a further payment is required will be notified by letter by the Bank of England of the amount of Stock allocated to him and of the further payment due, but such notification will confer no right on the applicant to transfer the amount of Stock so allocated. The despatch of allotraces letters to applicants from whom a further payment is required will be delayed until such further payment has been made.

The Bank of England may sell to applicants less than the full amount of the

17. The Stock will be initially issued to the Bank of England at a price such that it will not be a deep discount security for the purposes of Schedule 4 to the income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Further issues of the Stock may be at a deep and corporation lakes Act 1988. Futther issues of the Stock may be at a deep discount (broadly, a discount secteding ½% per annum) and in certain circumstances this could result in all of the Stock being treated thereafter as a deep discount security. However, it is the intention of Her Majesty's Treatury that further issues of the Stock will be conduced so as to prevent any of such Stock being treated as a deep discount security for United Kingdom tax purposes. Provided the Stock is neither a deep discount security, any discount to the nominal value at which the Stock is Issued will not represent taxable income for the purposes of the relevant provisions.

will not represent taxable uncome for the purposes of the relevant provisions.

18. Letters of alloament in respect of the Stock sold, being the only form in which the Stock (other than amounts held in the CGO Service for the account of members) may be transferred prior to registration, will be despatched by post at the risk of the applicant, but the despatch of any letter of alloament, and any refund of the balance of the amount of suid on application, may at the discretion of the Bank of England be withhold until the applicant,'s cheque has been paid. In the event of such withholding, the applicant will be southed by letter by the Bank of England of the acceptance of his application and of the amount of Stock allocated to him, subject in each case to the payment of his cheque, but such notification will confer no right on the applicant to transfer the Stock so allocated.

19. No sale will be made of a less amount than £1,000 nominal of Stock. If an application is satisfied in part only, the balance of the amount paid on application will, when refunded, be remitted by cheque despatched by gost at the risk of the applicant; if an application is rejected the amount poid on application will be returned likewise.

20. Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request to the Bank of England, New Issues, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GLI, IUW received not later than 30 November 1993. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of t

21. Subject to the provisions governing membership of the CGO Service, a member of that Service may, by completing Section C of the application form, request that any Stock sold to him be credited direct to his account in the CGO on Thursday, 28 October 1993 by means of a member-to-member delivery from an account in the name of the Governor and Conspuny of the Bank of England, Number 2 Account. Failure to accept such delivery by the deadline for member-to-member deliveries under the rules of the CGO Service on 28 October 1993 shall for the purposes of this prospectus constitute default in due payment of the amount payable on application in respect of the relevant Stock. A member of the CGO Service may also, subject to the provisions governing membership of that Service, samender a partly-paid letter of allotment to the CGO for cancellation and for the Stock comprised therein to be credited to the member's account. The member who is shown by the accounts of the CGO as being entitled to such Stock and any person claiming any entitlentent thereto, both be treated as entitled to such Stock and any person claiming any entitlentent thereto, both be treated as entitled to such Stock as if that member were the holder of a letter of allotment and be liable for the payment of any amount due in respect of such Stock. A member will be entitled to the member's account and by obtain a partly-paid letter of allotment comprising such Stock, and study members shall be liable for the payment of as succount and by obtain a partly-paid letter of allotment comprising such Stock, and such member shall be liable for the payment of as succount and by obtain a partly-paid letter of allotment of allotment comprising such Stock, and such member shall be liable for the payment of as succount and by obtain a partly-paid letter of allotment of allotment of allotment as succounting the thereafter in respect of Such Stock unless and until that letter of allotment is successful.

leaver of altorment is surrendered to the CGO for cancellation as aforesaid.

22. The Stock will be issued and sold partly-paid, with a final instalment of £50 per £100 nordinal of Stock payable on 2 December 1993. Payment of the final instalment must be sent to the Bank of England, New Issues, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GLI 1UW. Payment in full may be made at any time after sale but go discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on any oversibe amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling (*LIBOR*) plus 1% per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the dire date for such payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source or sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate. Default in due payment of any amount in respect of the Stock will render such Stock and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture. Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of the parchase money is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 2 December 1993; in the case of Stock held for the account of members of the CGO Service payment of the final instalment and registration of Stock will be effected under separate arrangements,

23. Application forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained by post from the Bank of England, New Issues, Southpate House, Southpate Street, Gloucester, GLI IUW; at the Central Gilts Office, Bank of England, I Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, ECR SEU or at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyne Buildings, Ist Floor, 20 Callender Street, Belfast, BTI 5BN; or at any office of the London Stock Enchange in the United Kingdon.

Antention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29 May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet aunounced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the

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NEW ISSUES, PO BOX 444, GLOUCISTER, GL.I INP TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; OR LODGED BY HAND AT THE CENTRAL GILTS OFFICE BANK OF ENGLAND, BANK BUILDINGS. 19 OLD JEWRY, LONDON NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1993; OR LODGED BY HAND AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OR AGENCIES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 126 OCTOBER 1993.

Kashmir shrine siege talks unit in collapse

By Stefan Wagstyl in Srinagar and Shiraz Sidhva in New Delhi

VIOLENCE erupted yesterday on the streets of Srinagar, capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, after talks on ending the siege of the city's hollest shrine col-

At least 40 people were injured as security forces used teargas and batons to disperse hundreds of demonstrators marching in support of militants who have taken control of the shrine and are sur-

rounded by troops.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has expelled one Indian diplomat and three staff at the Indian consulate in Karachi for "indulging in espionage and other activities incompatible

with their official status". The expulsions were in response to India's demand leave New Delhi on Monday, after India had charged Pakistan with "direct" involvement holy shrine in Srinagar.

Trading reopens after scandal

Indian brokers returned to the ring in Bombay and other bourses yesterday, ending week-long disruption after a Bombay court resolved the problem of scandal-linked shares seized by tax authorities, R C Murthy reports from

Bombay. Under an accord, thousands of shares worth \$80m (£52.9m) will be released.

If bolders can show the shares were bought legitimately, an ownership certificate will be issued. Other shares will be confiscated.

US pulls out crack **Somalia**

Russi

By George Graham in Washington

THE US is to withdraw its 🔻 detachment of Army Rangers from Somalia, reflecting its shift away from a policy of aggressively pursuing General Mohammed Farah Aideed, the Somali clan leader.

President Bill Clinton said the move did not mean the US was abandoning the search for Gen Aideed, but that the Rangers were no longer needed in Mogadishu now that a force of 3,600 Marines was positioned

"It means that right now we are engaging in a political process to see how we can resolve our mission in Somalia and to do all the things the United Nations was ordered to do," Mr

Clinton said. US officials denied that the withdrawal of the Rangers, whose principal role during to carry out raids aimed at capturing Gen Aideed or his lieutenants, was part of a deal struck with the Somali leader to obtain the release last week of a US helicopter pilot shot

down and held prisoner by his Since the US abandoned its policy of aggressively chasing the general, the US combat forces in Somalia have been. largely confined to barracks.

The White House described the removal of the 600 Rangers, who are trained in special operations such as "snatch" missions, as a "rotation of

forces." Mr Peter Tarnoff, the undersecretary for policy at the State Department, told members of Congress that the primary mission of the Marine amphibious forces deployed off the coast of Mogadishu was to protect US troops in Somalis.

Israel starts to free Palestinians

By Julian Ozanne in Jerusalem ISRAEL, in a gesture of

goodwill, freed its longest-held Palestinian political prisoner yesterday, beginning the process of releasing thousands of Palestinians serving time in Israeli jails. The release of up to 12,000

Palestinian prisoners is considered by Palestinian peace negotiators to be the single most important confidence-building measure between the two sides, who resume talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba today. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's premier, has said the numbers, timing and conditions for releasing prisoners must be negotiated properly in the Taba talks.

100

Israeli officials said the release of Mr Salim Zrei, a commander in the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation held by Israel for 23 years, was intended as a reward to the PLO for renouncing violence under the framework peace accord.

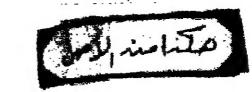
His release comes on the eve of the arrival in Israel of Mr Dennis Ross, US co-ordinator for Middle East peace talks. who is touring the region ahead of a visit early next month by Mr Warren Christopher, US secretary of state

said Israeli negotiators have promised to free 4,500-6,000 prisoners in the coming weeks. Hundreds of prisoners being held on minor charges will be released in the first wave.

Israeli officials have rejected PLO demands to release activists of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement. including Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader. The PLO, anxious to show quick results, wants Hamas. prisoners freed and the remaining deportees to return home, to undercut Hamas opposition to the peace agreement.

Mr Uri Savir, director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, indicated yesterday that this week's talks in Taba could see more significant releases in the context of mutual security guarantees. The Taba talks will also get down to more detailed negotiation about the size of the Jericho area from which Israeli troops will begin withdrawing by December 13.

The Palestinians want an area of 345 sq km, the old Jordanian district of Jericho, while Israel is offering only 27 sq km, the boundaries of the town. Much of the Palestinian negotiation focuses on access to the Dead Sea and a border crossing to Jordan, with inclu-Palestinian officials have sources and religious sites. sion of strategic roads, water



enjoyed too many political successes in recent months. But yesterday he was finally able to declare that the issue of Aborigine land rights, which has provoked a storm of controversy in the mining and farming sectors, was a big step closer to resolution.

A compromise package, which clears the way for legislation later this year, was carved out in a long cabinet meeting on Monday night.
As the details became clearer during the day, cautious support from many of the interested parties including the mining and farming lobbies - began to emerge.

All this was the result of some hairy, last-minute bargaining. On Monday afternoon, for example, Mr Keating told parliament that land which was held under pastoral ases could be subject to native title claims - a statement which reversed an earlier government commitment to farmers.

Yet by the time the cabinet meeting broke up in the small hours of Tuesday morning, this concession to the Aborigine contingent had been dropped.

Instead, Aboriginal representatives agreed to an alternative proposal - that they be allowed to convert their own pastoral leases into native title, thus giving them per-manent security on such land.

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For the past 16 months, it has been touch-and-go whether the government could broker a solution to a High Court decision which makes land rights legislation imperative. This ruling was handed down in June 1992, when the court determined that the Meriam people in the Torres Strait were holders of native title on about nine square kilometres of land. The judgment became known as the "Mabo" deci-

sion, after Eddie Mabo, leader of the

Meriam people who had begun the

court action a decade earlier. The land involved in Mabo may have been modest, but the implications were huge. Australian law had always operated on the assumption that the land was unoccupied before European settlement - the principle of "terra nullius". The High Court, by contrast, ruled that native title claims could be successful where the indigenous people had maintained a close connection with the land, although it also said that land titles acquired under accepted law since European settlement should not be disturbed.

To complicate matters further. the Mabo decision determined that states and territories could extinguish native title - but only in accordance with the country's constitution and laws, notably the 1975 Racial Discrimination Act. In short, compensation could be required. Unfortunately, the High Court ruling was made in the narrow context of one claim, and gave little guidance on the practical application of these principles. From the outset, the federal government was forced to tread a fine line between meeting Aboriginal demands, now backed up by the Mabo ruling, and delivering a degree of reassurance to existing land users, such as the mining companies and farmers, so that economic stability was not threatened. To make the task harder, it also had to juggle a deli-cate relationship with Australia's states and territories, traditionally

The final package, as agreed by the cabinet this week, is complex. Essentially, it will allow indigenous people to pursue claims for native title either through the federal court or through state jurisdiction. Decisions on the economic use of land. however, will remain the domain of the states, provided they comply with the "spirit and principles" of the Commonwealth legislation.
All existing leases can be "vali-

responsible for land management.

dated", and native title will then be extinguished for all categories other than mining leases. Governments will pick up any compensation costs resulting from validation of existing grants and "there will be further discussions with states and territories on cost-sharing arrangements

between the Commonwealth and complying states".

Where land is subject to native title, the indigenous holders will not have a veto on development, but they will have a "right to negotiation". Mr Keating's statement suggested that the time limits for negotiation would be set at four months in the case of exploration licences, and six months for mining leases. There would also be fourand six-month arbitration periods for the two respective categories.

Will the package fly? On the political front, the Australian Democrats, one of the two minority parties whose parliamentary support is essential, welcomed the package. State premiers in New South Wales and South Australia and the chief minister in the Northern Territory reserved judgment, but Queensland and Victoria came out in support. On the commercial front, the National Federation of Farmers sup-

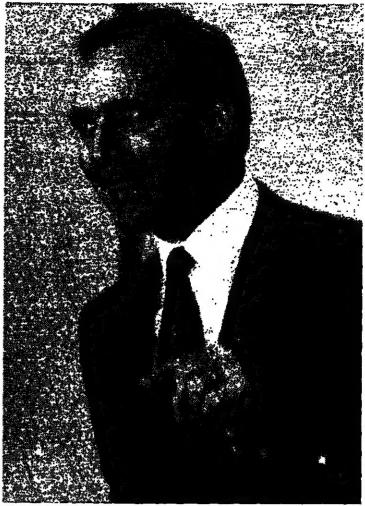
ported the deal. Even the Austra-lian Mining Industry Council, an umbrella group for the large mining companies, gave lukewarm endorse-ment. It noted that the package would at least provide certainty by validating existing leases. But the AMIC still quarrelled with the lack of parity between mining and pasto-ral leases; claimed that native title claimants' right to choose between federal and state jurisdictions

be supportive for the package to

This may be the sticking point. Western Australia - a key natural resources state - has taken the hardest line against the federal proposals to date. Yesterday, Mr Richard Court, the Liberal premier, said the legislation could lead to long court battles, and pointed out that up to 40 per cent of the state may be subject to native title claim. He is due to hold talks with Mr Keating's legal advisers in Melbourne today.

'The Aborigines' response, mean-while, was mixed. Although Aboriginal representatives were closely involved in the final negotiations, more radical elements within the indigenous community were far from impressed. "It's the coming of the second invasion," said Mr Bob Weatherall, a Brishane-based activist and chairman of the Aboriginal Provisional Government

It was up to Aboriginal people to prove that native title existed rather than the other way round, he commented. The High Court made it plain that it was wrong for governments and commercial groups to collude in taking away Aboriginal land interests in the past without accounting to Aboriginal people. It must be equally wrong for the federal parliament, and the states and territories, in 1993 to repeat the



Something to smile about: Keating announces the agreement yesterday AP

Russia spurns Japan's plea over dumping

FRESH tension entered relations between Japan and Russia yesterday, when Tokyo issued a formal protest over Russian dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of

Mr Lyudvig Chizhov, the Russian ambassador to Japan, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a demand that no further dumping should occur.

Mr Chizhov was reported to ve replied that Russia did not plan to end the practice, because of inadequate storage on land.

At the same time, the US lent Japan its support by urging Russia to honour an international moratorium on dumping nuclear waste at

The dumping, last Sunday, of 900 tonnes of low-level coolant and cleaning water from Russia's ageing fleet of nuclear submarines, has provoked

widespread anger in Japan.
It came only a week after strained relations with Russia looked set to improve, thanks to a diplomatically successful visit to Tokyo by Mr Boris

Mr Chizhov to ensure that the Moscow government cancelled plans to dump a second load of radioactive waste by November 15 and repeated an offer to help

on its own waste territory. "It is absolutely deplorable. We shall strongly protest if Russia goes ahead with plans to dump nuclear waste again." said Mr Tsutomu Hata, Japan's foreign minister.

Russia dispose of nuclear.

The complaint was delivered after a cabinet meeting in which several ministers voiced

Officials from both sides are to meet in Moscow on November 11 and 12 to discuss the problem of radioactive waste dumping at sea. Russia informed

International Atomic Energy Agency in advance, an agency official confirmed yesterday.

The moratorium on dumping only covers high-level waste, though signatory countries had also voluntarily decided not to dump low-level material, he

The radioactivity of both loads of waste, as registered by the Russians, was within

Money grows faster

By William Dawkins

JAPANESE money supply Increased its growth rate slightly last month, adding weight to banking industry claims that there is no credit

The broadly defined aggregate of M2 (cash in circulation and time and demand deposits) plus certificates of deposit rose per cent in September against the same month last year, having risen 1.7 per cent in August, the Bank of Japan said yesterday. It attributed the September rise, the sixth monthly increase in a row, to greater corporate fund raising in the capital markets, rather than more bank lending

This coincided with an announcement from the Federation of Bankers' Associations of Japan, the main industry body, that it had asked members to back the government's recent economic stimulation package by maintaining "smooth lending".

Outstanding loans by the 11 top commercial banks fell 0.5 per cent to Y222,260bn (£1,365bn)in the six months to the end of September, the first half-yearly fall since the sur-vey began 39 years ago. Mr Tadashi Okura, federation chairman, said banks would continue to try to help business through the recession.

Concession ends Australian budget impasse

By Nikld Talt in Sydney

THE 64-day impasse over the Australian budget ended yes-terday when the federal government reached a deal with minority parties, who hold the balance of power in the Senate.

This should ensure that the government's revenue-raising proposals can pass through both houses. Previously, the

Senate had voted down two elements of the package - a second round of wholesale tax increases, due to come into effect in 1995, and measures to

The main negotiations yesterday centred on the two Green Party senators. They emerged from the discussions late in the afternoon to announce that the government

would make a series of conces sions to compensate for the wholesale tax increases. These would include:

● A A\$3 (£1.20) increase in the job search allowance for the short-term unemployed from March next year. An extra A\$1 a child a week

in family payments to low-in-come families. • An extra A\$2m in emergency programme payments.

• Abandonment of the higher education charge for students taking more than the minimum time to complete their

The two Greens also negotiated to have future wine tax increases examined by an inde-pendent inquiry, headed by Mr John Button, a former industry minister, rather than by the

Commenting on the changes Mr Paul Keating, the prime minster, said he believed the agreement was "a reasonable compromise which does not undermine the government's medium term debt reduction strategy and is consistent with the intentions of the government for future bud-

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Rice offer splits Japan's people and politics Tokyo politicians are beginning to face up to the

inevitable, reports Emiko Terazono

took to the streets of Tokyo last week in protest at the government's offer in Gatt negotiations to phase out the country's ban on rice

Larist

Japan, seeking to avoid being blamed for delaying the Uruguay Round world trade talks, said informally it would open its rice market after a sixyear moratorium.

But while many farmers are angered by the government's move, most are aware that an eventual opening of the Japanese rice market is would be inevitable.

Only last year, the then prime minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa called for "flexibility" on the rice issue, while members of his cabinet moved to build public opinion for the opening of the rice market.

The government started to prepare a package to liberalise the rice market following rising prospects of an early agreement of the Uruguay Round.

However, Mr Miyazawa managed to escape making the big decision to open the market, as the government shelved plans to lift the import ban earlier this year after the US and EC failed to agree on farm subsi-

The prime minister, Mr Morihiro Hosokawa, and his cabinet are making the ritual protests

against rice liberalisation. However, before becoming prime minister, Mr Hosokawa was in favour of an open rice market Furthermore, he is

APANESE rice farmers supported by the back room took to the streets of power broker. Mr Ichiro Ozawa of the Japan Renewal Party, and the posts of agriculture minister, foreign minister, and minister of international trade, are all held by leading JRP

> Japan's controversial offer, leaked to the press last week, includes a six-year grace period of tariffication on rice, during which it will accept imports equal to three to five per cent of domestic rice consumption. US officials point out that while it remains to be seen if other countries will accept the plan, Japan's move was a "big step forward".

ut even if other Gatt members accept Japan's need to convince coalition members which staunchly oppose rice imports.

The socialists, who rely on the rural vote, have generally opposed lifting the import ban. Some are threatening to leave the coalition if the ban is lifted.

The Liberal Democratic Party, strong in rural constituencies, also oppose liberalisation. The LDP, however, risks being split over the rice issue, since some LDP members, including young urban MPs,

support liberalisation. In order to avoid a rift within the coalition disrupting the debate over political reform, the coalition is considering a parliamentary vote over rice imports. In 1988, parliament unanimously voted

against opening the rice mar-

But having lost its support base due to its failure to nge its image from the rigid left, the socialist party does not seem to have much choice than to eventually side with Mr Hosokawa. Many of the younger members feel the party will not have much to gain by leaving the coalition ernment, and are calling for the party to accept liberal-

Mr Jeff Young, political analyst at brokers Salomon Brothers in Tokyo, says; "The only chance for the socialists' survival is to cling to the coali tion". There is a high possibil-ity they will opt for conces-sions likely to be offered by Mr Hosokawa, such as income support for farmers, instead of abandoning the coalition.

Mr Hosokawa is also trying to weaken the strong rice lobby by electoral reform which will ease the disparity between the rural and urban vote. By redefining the constituencies, he wants to weaken the clout of the rural vote, which can be worth up to three urban votes.

It is likely that Japan will officially make its offer after the EC and US settle their disagreement over agricultural trade, thus placing Japan at the centre of the negotiations and allowing the government to say it has defended farmers' interests in the face of internamoney. It offers customers personalized and efficient

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'to make up tariff losses'

By Nancy Dunne in Washington

THE Clinton administration yesterday ignored Republican threats to oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement and proposed \$2.35bn (£1.55bn) in new travel taxes to compensate for the loss of tariff revenue.

Mr Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, yesterday told the House ways and means committee the tax would amount to \$5-\$10 on aircraft or ocean-liner tickets; \$7.50-\$15 on railroad and \$5-\$10 on commercial vehicles.

The revenue-raising method had been selected, he said, because of the close ties between trade and travel.

The administration had by law to come up with taxes or budget cuts to replace the lost tariff revenue. But this way, it defied a group of Republicans led by Mr Newt Gingrich, House minority whip, who say they would find it "difficult" to support a Nafta which includes new taxes.

One month before the November 17 House vote on Nafta, the administration is facing numerous such obstacles in its fight to get the implementing legislation approved. Much of its troubles stem from the uneasy alliance in support of the pact.

This includes moderate Democrats, at present about onequarter to one-third of the House Democrats, and Republicans on the lookout for political traps. Worried the administration will pull away from Nafta and they will be left alone in support of an unpopular pact, Republicans have demanded the administration lure at least 100 Democrats to the pro-Nafta side.

They also insisted on a labour side agreement that is so weak it has failed to attract the hoped-for union support. Democrats such as Mr Rich-

ard Gephardt, House majority leader, have demanded the administration set up a strong Job-training programme. Because this would require more taxes, which would anger Republicans, the administration has proposed only an 18-month \$90m plan with the promise it will propose a more comprehensive programme next year.

If, as expected, 145,000 workers lose jobs by 1995 because of Nafta, this "bridge" plan would provide only \$620.69 per worker, according to Congressman Collin Peter-son, a Minnesota Democrat.

Mexicans warn on environment

THE Mexican government has warned that environmental protection will be undermined if the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) is rejected by the US Congress, writes Damian Fraser in Mexico City. Mr Santiago Oñate, attor-

ney-general for the environment, said that without Nafta there could be a backlash in Mexico that would make envi-ronmental enforcement more difficult, and damage co-operation with the US and Canada.

Mr Onate, Mexico's top environmental official, said he was concerned it would be impossible to fund a clean-up of the US-Mexican border, as planned under a billion-dollar scheme.

His comments appear part of a concerted campaign by Mexico to pressure the US into approving the treaty. President Carlos Salinas has suggested that rejection of the treaty could set back US-Mexican relations for generations.

Travel tax Poll revives question: will Quebec quit?

east of Montreal, will be one of the most closely watched constituencies on election night in Canada next Monday. Political analysts say the outcome there could have a significant impact on national, and especially Quebec, politics over the next

few years. The result in Sherbrooke will shape the political future of Mr Jean Charest, who is the town's sitting MP and, since last June, deputy prime minis-ter in Ms Kim Campbell's Progressive Conservative cabinet.

Most important, the youthful Mr Charest, aged 35, is viewed as one of the few Quebec politicians able to articulate a vision of the future in which the francophone province remains part of Canada, But the Conservatives, who have held office in Ottawa for nine years, have their backs to the wall in the election campaign.

Recent opinion polls indicate that the Tories will not only be defeated by the Liberal party, they may even fail to gain enough seats to form the official opposition.

Nowhere has the Tories' collapse been more spectacular than in Quebec. The party now has 56 out of 75 Quebec seats in the House of Commons. But if recent opinion polls are any guide, it will be lucky to win three or four on October 25. The Tories have fallen victim

in Quebec less to the Liberals than to the Bloc Québecois (BQ), a group formed in 1988 to press for sovereignty for the francophone province. The BQ. led by Mr Lucien Bouchard, a former Conservative cabinet minister, is expected to pick up between 40 and 55 seats on election day.

The BQ's strength has again brought to the boil the interminable debate about whether and for how long Quebec will remain part of Canada. The election of a large group of BQ MPs will not in itself bring

MR Lee Brown, director of the

White House drug control pol-

icy office, will today outline a

shift in US anti-narcotics strat-

egy which envisages a reduc-tion of operations to intercept

drugs transported through

Central America and the Carib-

Mr Brown's testimony before

the Senate judiclary committee

follows a review by govern-

ment agencies of US drugs

THE CHILEAN government

has refused to negotiate with

striking health workers, whose

national stoppage today enters

its third week. Most hospitals

yesterday continued to turn

away all non-emergency cases.

a situation that has persisted

since the 55,000-strong Federa-tion of National Health Work-

ers called a national strike on

By Stephen Fidler

in Washington

Sherbrooke, an industrial and farming centre in the rolling countryside

Tory collapse stokes separatist debate, writes Bernard Simon

independence to Quebec. "We cannot do anything formally to implement sovereignty in Ottawa," Mr Bouchard says. "This has to be done through a decision made by Quebeckers in a referendum."

In any case, opinion polls suggest that the number of Quebeckers who vote for the BQ next week will be far greater than the hard core of nationalists who actually favour a break with the rest of Canada.

Among those likely to back the BQ in the election are many who, while not favouring full independence, are frustrated by the failure of one set of constitutional talks after

TWO of Canada's most senior

politicians have warned of the dangers of electing Bloc Qué-becois candidates in next Mon-

day's election, writes Bernard

Simon in Toronto. Mr Robert

Bourassa (right), Quebec's pre-mier, said that a vote for the

BQ could be "very risky. It can

be counter-productive to

favour the instability of Cana-

been hoping Mr Bourassa,

arguably the most respected

politician in the province, would intervene on their side in the election campaign. But

opinions are divided on

whether his remarks will have

a significant impact.
Mr Michael Wilson, the for-

mer finance minister who is not standing for re-election,

wrote in a commentary in the

Globe and Mail newspaper yes-

terday that "without a strong,

truly national voice in parlia-ment, the debate [on Quebec's place in Canada] could become

nasty and divisive for the

country." He said strong sup-

port for the BQ and the

Reform party, based in west-

ern Canada, "could generate

review is that interdiction operations in Central Ameri-

can and Caribbean - including

deployment of AWACs and CP3

surveillance aircraft and naval

patrol craft - have not been

Interdiction will remain an

important part of the strategy

but its focus will shift towards

source countries, where the

emphasis will be on developing

local capabilities in intercept-

recently told the federation,

which comprises mainly low-paid auxiliary hospital staff: "This strike is pointless. The

position of the government is very clear: we will not negoti-

ate while strike action contin-

ues". Last week the president's

phrase "not a peso more" was

splashed over the front pages.
The governing centre-left

cost-effective.

One of the conclusions of the part of the new strategy is to countries'

shifts focus of drugs crusade

ing drugs flights and halting istration of justice, which is

operations of cocaine laborato- also seen as cementing democ-

Aylwin snubs Chilean health strikers

President Patricio Aylwin in the face of popular demands,

"What we are trying to do as alternative development in the

place more emphasis on insti-

tution building and more

emphasis on support for source

countries in terms of economic

growth and development," said

a senior State Department offi-

The strategy will propose increased help for cocaine-

producing countries - chiefly

Bolivia, Peru and Colombia -

in their domestic anti-drug pro-

grammes, aid with the admin-

many of which have festered

since the end of Chile's 17-year

military rule in 1990. Many

middle class and semi-skilled

workers saw their real wages

drop substantially during the

insisted that its policy of fiscal

restraint, maintained through-

out four years in office will

The Concertación has

significant risks for Canada".

Federalists in Quebec have

dian institutions".

ascribe the BQ's strength to Quebeckers' sense that a vote for the Bloc next Monday carries relatively few risks. For many, the BQ's attraction is that it offers a change from the two traditional parties, holding out the promise of better economic times if Quebec's interests are given higher priority in Ottawa.

another over the past decade to

devolve more powers from the

federal government to Quebec.

Political observers also

Mr Alain Dubuc, chief editorial writer at La Presse newspaper in Montreal, wrote in a recent column: "There are no alternatives to the Bloc and that's the problem.

The provincial poll to be held some time during 1994 will be far more crucial to Quebec's future than the general election. The BQ's provincial arm, the Parti Québecois, has pledged to hold a sovereignty referendum within 12 months if it succeeds in unseating the ruling Liberals in the provin-

The risk is that the presence of a large contingent of separatist MPs in Ottawa could generate rising support for sovereignty within Quebec as the provincial election and then - possi- a referendum approaches.

Mr Bouchard has promised that the BQ will not obstruct the parliamentary process. But it could raise the level of Quebeckers' frustration with the federal system by making demands which a national government, balancing Quebec's needs with those of other parts of the country, cannot fulfil.

For instance, among the decisions facing the next government is the likely closure of some military bases. Mr Bou-chard notes however, that while Quebec has 25 per cent of Canada's population, it has only four out of 26 bases. He insists that all four must

remain open.
The BQ's ability to further

the separatist cause could be enhanced by the expected strong performance next Monday of the right-wing Reform party, whose main support is in western Canada.

A pillar of the Reform platform is that Quebec should get precisely the same treatment as all nine other provinces. If Quebeckers insist on special powers, so the Reform argument goes, they should not be discouraged from leaving the

The political situation within Quebec is also fluid. Mr Robert Bourassa, the respected and popular Liberal premier, announced his resignation from politics last month.

The timing of his announce ment at the start of the federal election campaign was widely interpreted as a signal to Quebeckers that they might wish to think twice before adding one bit of political instability to another by voting BQ.
But Mr Bourassa's decision

has thrown his own provincial Liberal party into disarray. The new leader will be chosen at a convention next January. But only one candidate for Mr Bourassa's job – Treasury Board president Mr Daniel Johnson - has so far come for-

Other senior party members are offended that Mr Bourassa turned a blind eye to Mr Johnson's early lobbying for the leadership and failed to give them enough time to organise

their campaigns.
Mr Johnson is a staunch federalist and has a blue-chip political background. Both his father and brother were premiers of the province.

But there is some doubt whether he can match either Mr Bourassa's deft political touch within the party, or Mr Bouchard's charisma on the stump. Hence the hope in federalist circles that Mr Charest will still have a platform after next Monday from which to appeal to Quebeckers not to give up on Canada.



regions.
The US is expected to seek

support from the Washington-based international financial

institutions in developing the

Mr Brown's testimony will, however, emphasise develop-

ments in drug policy on the domestic front. As well as out-

lining the strategy - whose full detail will not be known until

the budget is presented to Con-

Brown is attempting to extend

election. Its determination to

resist high wage demands,

politically motivated, is all the

more difficult given the econo-

my's average growth rate of 6.5 per cent since 1990.

terised as electioneering the

guarded support for health

workers from Mr Arturo Ales-sandri, presidential candidate

The government has charac-

gress next February

Argentina to pay creditor banks \$7bn this month

By John Barham in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA is to issue \$7.23bn (£4.78bn) in bonds to creditor banks by the end of this month to securitise unpaid interest on its foreign debt and so bring to a virtual close the restructuring of its commercial bank debts.

Earlier this year Argentina signed an agreement with its bankers to cut its \$32bn external debt by a third by issuing concessional "Brady bonds" which stretch out maturities and cut both principal and

As part of this agreement, Argentina also agreed to pay 8.5bn interest arrears accumuated up to December 1991 by issuing more bonds. Until then, Argentina paid banks only \$70m a month in token interest

It will now begin paying the arrears with 12-year bonds that pay 🖁 per cent over Libor. Pay-

Mr Daniel Marx, financial secretary, said yesterday that bonds worth \$7.23bn would be issued this month.

A second batch, worth A second batch, worth \$1.28bn, would be issued by December. Mr Marx said the delays were due to difficulties facing bankers, auditors and government officials in estabishing the precise amount of umpaid interest due.

Once the process is complete, Argentina will have \$25.4bn-worth of Brady bonds outstanding.

These bonds offer creditors the choice between maintaining the value of loan principal but accepting a low fixed interest rate, or accepting a 30 per cent cut in principal in exchange for floating interest

Banks took \$12.6bn-worth of par bonds that preserve principal and \$4.3bn in bonds that pay floating interest. These bonds are backed by \$3.2bn-worth of zero coupon US Trea-

Congress pair to probe claim By Angus Foster in São Paulo BRAZIL'S Congress yesterday decided to conduct a special inquiry into corruption allegations levelled against more than 20 members. But an important constitutional revi-

lysts feared would be delayed by the scandal, appeared to remain on track. The inquiry has 45 days to decide if there is any truth to the allegations, made by Mr José Carlos Alves dos Santos, a former budget secretary who

is now facing murder and

sion process, which some ana-

other charges. He named several senior politicians, including two serving government ministers and the president of the Senate, as benefiting from a corrupt scheme linked to construction contracts under the governments of former presidents José Sarney and Fernando Col-

Investigators found \$1.4m (£933,000), including \$30,000 in counterfeit US currency, at Mr dos Santos's home and in safety deposit boxes, police

All the politicians involved have denied the charges. An inquiry last year led to the downfall of then-president Col-lor on unrelated corruption charges.

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Congress decided yesterday to continue work on the constitutional revision, aimed at simplifying and modernising the constitution, in parallel with the investigation. Group opposed to the review, includ-ing left-wing politicians and church groups, had called for its suspension pending the outcome of the inquiry. They argued that with so many members of Congress under. suspicion, its rulings on the constitution would be in

The two government ministers have remained at their posts, despite offering their resignations to President Ita-mar Franco in order to contest the allegations.

Mr Franco, who has stressed the probity of his regime, is thought to want to hear any evidence in full before making a decision on their future.

starts leap NXDO

A SURGE in apartment building during September pushed US construction starts to their highest rate for three and a half years even though building of single-family homes weakened, the Com-merce Department said yester-day, Reuter reports from Wash-

The overall annual rate of starts on new homes increased by 2.8 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.35m after a revised rise of 6.7 per cent in August. Starts were up everywhere except in the South, where they fell.

The September pick-up was entirely in multi-family homes, which soared by 52 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 210,000. By contrast, starts on single-family homes fell 3 per cent to a rate of 1.14m.

Mortgage rates were moder ate throughout September and by last week had touched a 25-year low of 6.81 per cent for a 36-year loan, according to the Federal Home Loan Mort-

gage Corp.
A National Association Home Builders survey found its members buoyant about sales over the next six months.

not be slackened in the run-up coalition, the Concertación, is of the right-wing electoral pact, determined not to appear weak to this December's general Union for Chilean Progress. ment will come in two stages. Haitian ruler ignores peace plan as fleet gathers

racy, and greater emphasis on his office's current five-year alternative development in the authorisation, which expires

LT GEN Raoul Cedras, Haiti's army commander, yesterday ignored demands to respect the United Nations-brokered plan allowing the country's exiled president to return, despite the re-imposition of an international embargo, AP reports from Port-au-Prince.

Six US and three Canadian navy ships were offshore to enforce the embargo yesterday, and a French frigate was on the way to join them. Britain said it would send a frigate.

Gen Cedras relaxed with dent Jean-Bertrand Aristide to aides at army headquarters early yesterday after the mid-night deadline for him to comply with the plan passed. News photographers snapped shots

of him smoking and joking. Asked what the army would do if US troops came ashore to rescue Americans, he said: "I'm certain it will not reach such a point." The embargo aims to compel

him to live up to an accord he signed to allow exiled Presi-

return to office on October 30. Geri Cedras was a key part of the military coup which over-threw Mr Aristide - Haiti's first popularly elected president - in 1991.

The capital, Port-au-Prince, came to life slowly on the first day of the embargo. "Gas sup-plies are normal. There's no rationing, yet," a pump atten-dant said. Prices remained stable at about \$1.50 (£1) a galion and there were no queues.

But schools, government offices and some shops remained closed for a second day on Mr Aristide's orders, to mourn the assassination last week of Mr Guy Malary, the justice minister, who was part of the transition cabinet preparing for Mr Aristide's return. Mr Robert Malval, the prime minister, has blamed military

authorities for the murder. The sanctions decreed by the UN Security Council include a ban on oil and petrol ship-

ments, a ban on weapons, and a freezing of overseas assets of Haiti's de facto authorities or "their agents". While the blockade could

stop tankers, the UN has taken no measures to halt petrol shipments from the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The Dominican government is close to Haiti's army, and previous cross-border embargo violations had been reported. The Haitian military is also

believed to have stockpiled sev-eral weeks' supply of oil The dispute has raised ten-

sions in Port-au-Prince. Hundreds of residents have fled to the countryside in anticipation of more army repression or a foreign invasion.

Gen Cedras said the solution to the crisis lay in further negotiation, but UN envoy Mr Dante Caputo, the architect of the plan to restore Mr Aristide, rejected that idea.

Some 62 per cent of respondents saw sales on the rise.

FT 20/10

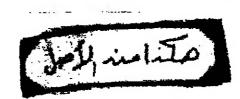
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Blair House | Fine-tuning in the overseas risk business impasse 'puts Gatt at risk'

By David Gardner in Luxembourg

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REFUSAL by the US to open talks with the European Community on "clarifying" the Blair House farm trade agreement will make it hard to conclude the Uruguay Round world trade reform negotiations by their December 15 deadline, Mr René Steichen, EC agriculture commissioner,

warned yesterday.
"The deadline might be realistic if the Americans are pre-pared to shift a bit," Mr Stel-

Briefing EC farm ministers on his talks last week with Mr Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative. Mr Steichen said he was disappointed by Washington's intransigence over the EC's "legitimate, reasonable and responsible" demands.

According to the commissioner, Mr Kantor refused to discuss the additional farm trade concessions sought by France and incorporated into the EC's negotiating brief after a special meeting of foreign, trade and agriculture ministers

open technical discussions with the EC at senior level, dismissing the "clarifications" sought by Europe as an internal Community problem.

At yesterday's Council of Ministers, however, the Commission and most member states argued that the US stance might be tactical. "It was always unlikely that the Americans would say now what more they were prepared to discuss in agriculture," one senior Brussels official said.

Mr Steichen's comments set the tone for a low-key debate on the Gatt farm chapter, but also prompted France, Spain, Belgium, Ireland and others to question the December 15 deadline, when the US admin-istration's "fast track" negotiating authority runs out.

Mr Jean Puech, France's agriculture minister, insisted the EC should not be mesmer ised by the date. He also introduced a new element into the farm trade imbroglio by insisting the Commission nail down

French reassured

A GATT accord would help France promote its service sec-Stor, protect its patents and, in the fraught agricultural area. push its processed food exports, Mr Peter Sutherland, director-general of the world trade body, said yesterday, writes David Buchan in Paris. In a powerful speech to a business conference in Paris. he underlined France's selfinterest in a rapid conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations. Mr Sutherland also warned that a failure of Gatt talks would not halt adjustments in the world economy, but simply ensure that "the

Minister Edouard Balladur for launching his country into a national debate on the world trade talks' outcome. France and other European countries, he said, faced a choice between "thriving in an open global economy with effective and fair rules, . . or stifling to death

in an over-protected EC".

Mr Sutherland rejected the widespread notion in France that the December 15 deadline for Gatt negotiators to finish their work was an "American" date, pointing out that it also had EC acceptance. He noted a Gatt deal would help suppress counterfeiting of French lux-



Ruth Harkin: cautious support

N a corner behind the door to Ms Ruth Harkin's office sits a pile of framed maps of the world, which the new head of the Overseas Private

of government: return the money. This year. Ms Harkin says, she will give back about \$17m to Congress. The agency's main mission is to the new head of the Overseas Private

of government: return the money. The ment of Labour is resistant to foreign investment because of the consequent job losses at home. The agency's main mission is to the overseas Private to the consequent properties about Opic policities about Opic policities about opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the policy than head of the Overseas Private to the opic policities about the opic polici Investment Corporation has not yet had time to hang.

My personal imprint on the office so far is the paperwork on my desk," she says, several months after her

June 2 swearing in.
In April President Bill Clinton launched Opic on its most challenging venture to date: providing loans, loan guarantees and risk insurance to US companies going in to the former Soviet Union, as part of the adminis-tration's \$1.6bn (£1.05bn) Russian aid

Opic hopes to convert \$40m of government funds into more than \$1bn in loan guarantees, new loans and equity projects in Russia over the

Like his Republican predecessor. the new president sees Opic as a foreign policy tool. Especially in the current cash-strapped era it is easier to encourage business to go abroad and contribute to development efforts than to make direct appropriations of

In 1992 the 22-year-old agency received its first congressional appro-priation. Since then it has done something almost unheard of in the halls

BAe-Taiwan joint venture

provide insurance against currency problems, political violence and expropriations to companies seeking to invest abroad. It functions much like a private insurer collecting fees from the organisations it insures. Opic also offers financial services such as direct loans to businesses and

fee-earning advisory services.

"We think that's a specious argument because there are going to be some jobs created in Guatemala, but there are also going to be jobs created here to oversee that investment," says Mr Workman. However, labour, which is not such a natural ally for Opic, has expressed hope that Ms Harkin will be more sensitive to job-loss issues, in that her husband, demo-The agency has attracted a degree cratic Senator Tom Harkin, has

Lisa Bransten on a new chief at the

of controversy, with labour unions arguing it is encouraging "runaway plants" that cost US jobs. During the 1992 election campaign the Clinton camp lambasted Opic, along with the Agency for International Development, for encouraging manufacturers to relocate their plants in Central America.

But business believes it has found a champion in Ms Harkin, according to Mr Willard Workman, vice-president of the US Chamber of Commerce. The business community feels the Depart-

Overseas Private Investment Corp always been a strong union supporter. Ms Harkin said she would not encourage companies to take plants abroad, but she takes a business-oriented approach to whether moving a factory costs American jobs. Factories moving abroad can still create jobs at home, she says, because "you are util-ising the local workforce, but at the

> American equipment, which means American jobs." The battle over the North American Free Trade Agreement has served to

same time you are bringing over

more closely than before.

"Given the heated debate about Nafta there is a change in the nature of the debate that was not there in the past," says Dr Robert Lawrence, a professor of economics at Harvard

University.
Thus far, however, Ms Harkin has earned cautious support from factions which are fighting tooth and nail over the agreement.

One of the agency's newest initiatives is an environmental growth fund that Opic will use to encourage US "envirotech" companies to help clean pollution abroad - a project which Ms Harkin sees as the agency's

biggest departure from the Bush era. Overall, Ms Harkin believes her role is to fine-tune rather than overhaul the agency, which she describes as "a jewel in terms of its efficiency and the

calibre of its employees".

It is a job quite different from that confronting the head of the troubled Agency for International Develop-ment, a job Ms Harkin went after but did not get. "The intrigue at AID was on a totally different level," she said. "Many people have told me that I am very fortunate [not to be at AID] and I

aircraft would rival Boeing precise interpretations of the extent to which sanitary, plant health and veterinary regulations can interrupt normal on September 20. Mr Kantor also refused to trade in agricultural produce. according to documents shown

By Deniel Green and Dennis Engbarth in Taipel

THE RJ-X aircraft for which Taiwan is insisting on a British Aerospace development pledge would be a direct competitor to the Boeing 737, the world's biggest-selling aircraft. BAe has already spent about £10m researching the RJ-X. Last month it presented documents to Taiwan Aerospace Corporation (TAC) showing

complete redesign of the exist-ing model, the RJ. Its fuselage would be built of an aluminium-lithium alloy, a material normally associated with military aircraft.

that the aircraft would be a

Unlike the RJ's configuration of four engines attached to wings above the passenger cabin, the RJ-X would have a more conventional layout of two engines on a wing below law of the jungie will prevail". ury goods and protect the the fuselage. There would be The Gatt chief praised Prime patents of high-tech industry. the fuselage. There would be

to the Financial Times by Talwanese officials yesterday, one with 96 seats and the other with 125. Its range would be extended to "more than 1,500 nautical miles".

This would bring the aircraft las DC9/MD90.

'Without the RJ-X, the joint venture would not be a success. It's not a question of yes or no but when it would be built

tive civil airliner markets, competing against the smaller Boeing 737 versions as well as the latest addition to the Airbus family, the A319 - a smaller version of the A320 which was announced at the

Paris Air Show in June. Boeing is now planning to develop a new family of 737 aircraft to give the airliner more efficiency and a longer range.

It would also compete directly against the Fokker F-100 and the McDonnell Doug-"Within the next 10 years,

many 737s and 727s will retire. This would be a good time to market the RJ-X," said Mr David Chu, director of the government advisory team. While TAC is insisting BAe

commit itself to the develop-ment of the R.J.X, the UK company is less confident than Taiwan of its future. It is pressing for a detailed survey of the aircraft's potential market to be conducted first.

This position fails to convince Mr Chu. "Without the RJ-X, the joint venture would not be a success. It's not a question of yes or no but when

Credit agencies' Belelli to build oil future brightens platform

By David Dodwell, ITALYS Belelli group has won a L130bn (£54.6m) contract to build an offshore oil platform

water, will be able to produce

100,000 b/d of crude and 110m

cubic feet of natural gas.

Belelli will be using a special

"tension leg" design which involves a floating hull stabi-lised through the attachment

of steel tendons to the ocean

The new platform will oper-

ate some 200km south-west of

New Orleans in the Mars field,

which the new tension leg

technology has made it possi-ble to exploit. Belelli has built a previous tension leg plat-

form for Shell for use in the

floor.

EXPORT credit agencies last for Shell and BP for deepyear saw an improvement in water production in the US their vulnerability to dangers of non-payment, for the first waters of the Galf of Mexico, writes Robert Graham in time since the 1983 Latin American debt crisis, accord-The 20,000-ton platform, ing to the Berne Union, the designed to sit in 910 metres of

umbrella body representing the world's leading agencies. Mr Ragnar Sohlman, president of the Berne Union and chief executive of Exportkreditnāmnden, Sweden's export credit agency, said at the end of the group's annual meeting that the overhang from the 1980s' debt crisis "remains a substantial problem", with most members showing signifi-

cant cumplative deficits. But closer linkage now being imposed between insurance premiums paid by exporters and the amount of export business covered "gives some hope for further improvement", he

added. Debt restructuring arrangements being made under the auspices of the Paris Club of creditor countries implied "there will not be full or early recovery of many of the claims paid during the 1980s". So far, 58 countries have reached such arrange-

ments. New business underwritten in 1992 by the union's 43 members amounted to \$311bn (£206bn), 6 per cent lower than 1991. Claims fell, while premium income and debt recov-

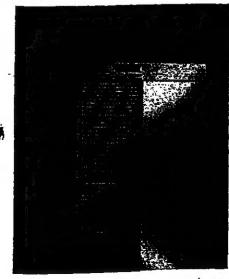
eries increased. The most dramatic change was in insurance cover for investments overseas, a type of cover offered by just 21 of the

union's members.

This leapt by 48 per cent from \$4.8bn in 1991 to \$7.1bn last year. Much of the new cover was given for investments in the newly emerging

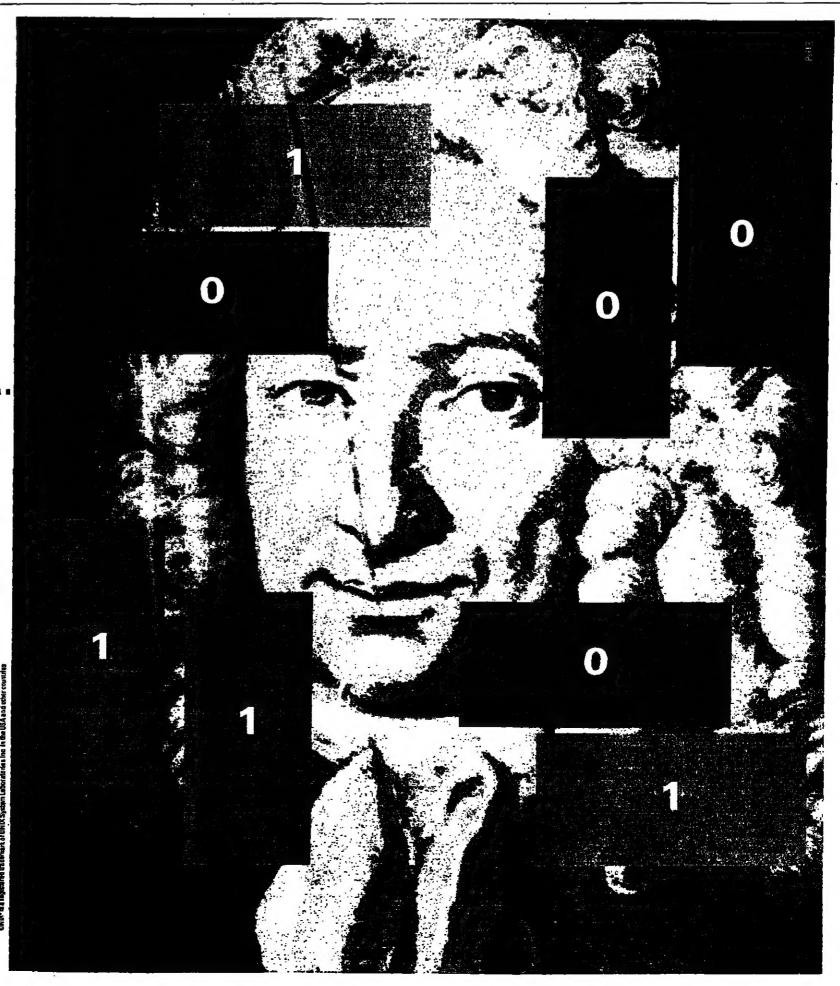
SIEMENS NIXDORF

Dear Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, with gratitude to the inventor of the binary number system, we proudly present the RM high performance computers...



1673: Leibniz invents the binary number system - calculating with zero and one. 1993: Still using the binary code, Siemens Nixdorf develops the RM Systems, introducing its customers to a new level of UNIX performance. Fourteen new models, from the Mini Tower to the High-end UNIX, one to 16 super-fast RISC processors, each rated at 150 MHz - the RISC-based RM family adjusts step by step to every performance demand and user application. The result a unique performance range within a unified systems family, ensuring easy expansion of the most advanced IT solutions. Plus the openness that has made Siemens Nixdorf's systems Europe's most successful UNIX multi-user systems.

The European challenge Synergy at work



push for Budget rate cut

Economics Correspondent

ANY tightening in fiscal policy in next month's Budget should be accompanied by a cut in interest rates to avoid jeopardising the "fragile" recovery, the Treasury's panel of outside economic advisers - the so-called "wise men" - said

The group said Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, should set out a long-term package of measures ing as a way to boost confidence of the financial markets, while spreading any tax rises over a wide spectrum of the UK economy to minimise the effects on demand.

In a cautious asse economic prospects, the economists said the slow upturn would continue but might "fal-ter" in the second half of this year partly owing to weaken-

The panel expects UK gross domestic product to grow 1.7 per cent this year, and by 2.7 per cent next year. The unturn might be held back by "below motorical" potential" growth for some time in export markets in continental Europe.

The group's report was based on ideas from six out of its seven members, with Professor Wynne Godley of King's College, Cambridge, away from the discussions in the US.

The economists are concerned about the threat to the recovery of the £6.8bn of tax rises already due to take effect in April.

Even so they believe Mr cut the growing gap between public spending and revenues
- likely to reach £50bn this financial year - because of the danger of a rapid increase in borrowing over the next few

"A prudent solution would be to introduce a package of tax and spending reforms, desirable in themselves, which would reduce the public sector borrowing requirement over a number of years," the panel

For the next financial year. the group suggests only a 'modest fiscal tightening" because anything more than this might damage the recov-

Treasury should pencil in a net fiscal tightening, taking into account both tax rises and cuts in public spending, amounting to about 1 per cent of gross domestic product or roughly £6bn.

One of the threats to the recovery is that, with unemployment remaining high and only low wage increases, personal disposable incomes are likely to grow "slowly if at all" in inflation-adjusted

Also there are "worrying signs" that the housing market has failed to pick up con-The consensus among the

panellists is that the govern-ment's 4 per cent ceiling for underlying inflation is unlikely to breached by the

Wise men Vauxhall enters credit card market

THE ISLAND RACE

IS NO MORE.

UK's tunnel vision

given new image

THE FIRST stage of a

campaign by Eurotunnel to

counter the British public's

innate fear and suspicion of

being linked to mainland

Europe gets under way later

Newspaper advertisements, one of which appears above, will aim to explain in a

"friendly and informative" way

how the Channel tunnel car

passenger service will operate from May 1994. The £2m series

of advertisements will form

part of a wider £25m pan-Euro-pean campaign to publicise "Le

Eurotunnel said there was

still widespread ignorance in

one of her cabinet colleagues.

Lord Gilmour recalls how he

and Lord Carrington, then for-

eign secretary, tried to negoti-ate a £1bn refund from the EC at the 1979 Dublin summit and

ended up with only two-thirds

They thought they had done rather well. But when they told

the prime minister at Chequers

Lord Gilmour says: "Had we

been bailiffs coming to take

away the furniture I think we

would have been more cor-dially received. She was like a

sort of firework, and one could

Lord Carrington believes

she became "incandesceni

Lady Thatcher's victims bite back

The former PM's memoirs attack

the 'Wets' and 'Grandees'. Now

they have said what they think

"complete humbug". He says it

was "utter nonsense" for her to

have used the quotation since

she was the last person to believe in harmony.

Taking up this point Lord Pym, her former defence secre-

tary, said her disdain of com-

to have constructive cabinet

meetings. "The idea that some-body else might have a valid

point of view which might be a

right point of view would never enter her mind at all. No

Lord Prior says Lord Soames, who was leader of the

House of the Lords, told him

part of her philosophy."

we bring harmony", is that he would not even have attacked by Lord Prior, her for-treated his gamekeeper as

mise made it very difficult

about her. Roland Rudd reports

VAUXHALL MOTORS, a subsidiary of General Motors, has become the first UK car manufacturer to enter the credit card market, launching a British version of the GM card currently available in the United States The card, to be issued in

association with HFC bank. will offer customers a discount of up to £2500 towards the cost of a new Vauxhall vehicle. Customers will be able to

choose either a Visa or Master-Card general purposes credit card, and will pay no annual fee. The annualised percentage rate of interest will be 19.9 per

That compares with a 229 per cent APR at Barclaycard, the largest issuer with 8.8m cards in issue, and a 23.9 per cent APR at National Westminster bank, which has 4m cards. Since the GM card was launched in the United States in September 1992, almost eight million people have

a further 800 000 in Canada, where it became available last June. GM said that the card had helped to sell over 70 000

Mr Charles Golden, the chairman and managing director of Vauxhall, said yesterday that the aim of the move was to strengthen the relationship with existing Vauxhall customers and attract new customers. The new card could signal a strengthening of competition in the UK credit card market.

already announced its intention to set up a European headquarters and issue credit cards in the UK market. In the US a number of manufacturers, including Ford Motor and Gen-

eral Electric, now issue cards. Because of the high numbers of company cars in the UK, the British GM card will include a new feature as an alternative to using the rebate towards the purchase of a Vauxhall as a

second car. Company car drivers will

would work. "Most people now know you can't drive through

the tunnel but many still think

you can turn up as a foot passenger," it said. BMP DDB Needham, which

devised the newspaper adver-

tisements, said research had shown that the public was less

interested in the engineering

achievements of the tunne

and what benefits it brought.

than how the shuttle worked

The four advertisements will

emphasise speed, frequency and ease of use of the service.

their passengers 24-hours a day

on the 35-minute trip without

pre-booking. Prices have yet to

be announced but are expected

to match Dover to Calais ferry

Lady Thatcher "did the foreign office a great deal of damage".

she was unpopular with many colleagues and throughout the

stick to her guns. "My name

was mud with some of my col-leagues. They always wanted, some of them, an easy way. But I always had enough to get

She says they talked of me

as That Woman, "It was That Woman which got things

done....It never occured to me

that I was a woman prime min-

ister." As for her critics she

says: "They had that Biblical

weakness - some of them, not

all of them - vanity, vanity, all

The only former colleague interviewed for the documen-

tions under Lady Thatcher's

Lady Thatcher recognises

Shuttles will take cars and

MBNA American bank has have the option of turning their discount points into vouchers that can be used in some shops, hotels and restaurants, rather than towards a reduction in a new car. This part of the scheme will take effect from the beginning of

April next year. Cardholders will receive a rebate of 5 per cent of the value of all purchases made with the card, to a maximum of £500 a year, off the price of a new vehicle. The maximum off any one vehicle will be £2,500

rebate points will also apply to balances from other cards transferred to the GM card.

pany would look at establishing a system enabling cardholders to receive a rebate on goods and services from corporate partners. In the US these include Mobil Oil, Avis, the car hire company, and Marriott, the hotel chain. GM Europe will be monitoring the progress of the card with a view to pos-

Mr Golden said that the com-

switch the order from its Japa-

nese factories to the UK. The Peterlee plant will sup-ply bearings for the white goods industries in China and Indonesia. Mr David Smith, human resources director at Peterlee, said: "We are naturally delighted to win these orders. The uncompetitive yen exchange rate meant our par-

ponents they need for their domestic production plants from overseas, increasing the

competitiveness of their highly automated Japanese plants. Komatsu, the biggest Japanese construction equipment producer, recently announced

that outsourcing would increase for its Japanese plants, with suppliers to Komatsu UK being added to its procurement list for the first time. Komatsu also manufactures

in the north-east, producing hydraulic excavators from a former Caterpillar plant at Birtley near Newcastle. NSK's Peterlee operation four plants employing about

820 people - normally exports about 80 per cent of its bear-ings to continental Europe, with the rest sold in the UK. But the recession in Europe has forced the company to reduce operating volumes. The Asian orders have helped avert the need for an extended Christmas holiday break at Peterlee for the first time in

two years. Peterlee was chosen to supply China and Indonesia ause our quality is high enough to take the place of

Japanese-manufactured ball bearings,"said Mr Smith. But he added that the UK company could not rely on the Asian business in the long term and Europe continued to be very depressed, dragged down mainly by the poor state of the German economy.

"UK demand is improving, albeit falteringly, but not sufficiently to offset low sales activ-

ity elsewhere." he added.

After adjustment for inflation the increase in the UK was 3.3 per cent, compared with 3.1 per cent in France.

tax just under £30,000 a year, which puts them in 10th position in the European earnings table with only the Nordic countries below.

A Monks Partnership spokesman said there was a much wider variation in the UK between the pay of parent and subsidiary company directors than on the continent. The UK subsidiary manager had median basic earnings of £41,000 a year but the director of a similar UK parent com-

Japan plant wins orders in E Asia

A JAPANESE-OWNED factory set up in the UK to serve the European market for ball bearings has won its first orders from eastern Asia because of the strength of the Japanese

yen. The NSK Bearings plant at Peterlee, County Durham, set up in 1976, was one of the first inward investments in the

It is now benefiting from the strength of the yen, which has prompted NSK, its Tokyobased parent company, to

ent was going to have prob-lems in profitably serving

some Asian markets. The order highlights the problems for Japanese manufacturers caused by currency factorers caused by currency factors, and high domestic costs, over the past two years. This is encouraging many of them to consider exporting more of their production to

overseas plants.

Japanese manufacturers are also looking to source the com-

Directors of UK subsidiaries get 6%

By Robert Taylor,

DIRECTORS of UK subsidiaries of multinational enterprises enjoyed median pay increases of 6.0 per cent this year, according to the latest survey of managerial pay in Europe published yesterday by Monks Partnership, the

tary who remains a loyal sup-porter is Lord Whitelaw, the British consultants. former deputy leader, who points out that the party won three consecutive general elec-

pany got 30 per cent more.

Major to hear new overture of peace from Ulster

zling."

But have they really changed their tune? Tim Coone, in Dublin, looks at the latest peace plan from Northern Ireland

AN a peace overture welcomed by the IRA From the people who have pushed home their political message, not just through through hunger strikes in prison, but with the invidious the incendiary device, explosive letters and the silenced pistol shot in the night? That is the anguished ques-

tion that will face Mr John Major, the British prime minister, next week when he hears from the Irish government the details of the recent Hume-Adams peace initiative. The two leaders from North-

ern Ireland say they are "convinced that a process can be designed to lead to agreement among the divided people of this island, which will provide a solid basis for peace".

With the government in a desperate economic bind and the Treasury pressing hard to make deep cuts in a stretched defence budget, the temptation for Mr Major to at least explore what may be on offer must be great indeed.

At the same time he is being pushed into a corner by rebellious Tory backbenchers threatening revolt over rail privatisation and welfare reforms, and must rely upon a crutch of support from Mr James Molyneaux's Ulster Unionist party (UUP) if he is to get these key pieces of legislation through the current parliament.

memoirs the so-called

"wets" and "grandees" have bitten back, attacking the style and policy of what one

described as that "That

Lord Prior says Lady Thatcher was "dictatorial":

Lord Pym, says she was

against any suggestion of com-promise, "which meant she had a confrontational style". While Lord Gilmour thought

her judgment was totally mis-

guided. "She very seldom said

a sentence in itself that was

interesting. Rather surprising

in all those years."

In a BBC documentary series

Thatcher: The Downing Street

Years, starting tonight, the vic-

tims of the former prime minis-ter describe their intense dis-

Lady Thatcher's quotation of

St Francis of Assisi, beginning

"where there is discord may

like of her manner.

Mr Molyneaux, who sees treachery and betrayal of the "Union", the link with the British Crown, behind the Hume-Adams initiative, thus has a powerful weapon with which to attack it. So what is there for Mr Major to chew upon in this initiative, and what makes it different from the many failed peace initiatives of the

First, it is not coming solely from Mr Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional

It is co-authored by Mr John Hume, the widely respected leader of the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), who is a lifelong opponent of using violence for political ends, and whose political inspiration is drawn from figures such as Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. rather than traditional Republican heroes such as Wolfe

Tone or James Connolly. Second, the initiative has the blessing of the Irish government, which has as much interest in seeing a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland as does the

British government Both Mr Hume and Mr The long evolution of Sinn Féin and 'The Provos'

• It is the "political wing" of the Provisional

Irish Republican Army
The PIRA is known as "The Provos".
The Provos split from the Official IRA in 1969 after the OIRA pledged itself to non-violent protest. · Provisional Sinn Féin, now known as Sinn

Fein, split at the same time.

• The PSF left behind those republicans who were prepared to recognise the three parlia-ments in Dublin, London and Northern Ireland. • PIRA demands the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and unification of the island of Ireland.

· Violent IRA campaigns were waged in the 1950s and 1960s for reunification.

• The IRA is still waging a violent campaign or Catholic civil rights against in Northern Ireland and on the "mainland".

until both governments have

perceived Unionist abuses of power began in Northern Ireland in 1968. "The Provos" were founded in 1969.

British troops were sent to NI in 1969 The so-called "Troubles" had begun. The policy of internment in 1972 was a spur to fund-raising, particularly in the US.

PIRA has talked to a Conservative govern-

ment before, in 1972. One of the delegation was Gerry Adams - now president of Slan Féin.

The IRA maintains links with revolutionary groups in Europe and beyond

Sian Féin and "The Provos" maintain close

Shin Féin won around 10% of the vote in the province at the last UK general election.

had time to consider and evaluate it but following recent interviews with both men, the following outline of the initiaachieve progress;

Mr Hume and Mr Adams tive can be pieced together. • The initiative sees a threestage process, beginning with the search for a mechanism to

bring about an end to hostillties, progressing through a protracted period of all-inclusive negotiations on the future constitutional status of Northern (reland, and culminating in a simultaneous referendum north and south of the border. Mr Hume and Mr Adams do Adams have agreed to keep not have any blueprint for a details of the initiative secret future constitutional settle-

ment, but are united in believing that Unionists should not be allowed to block the British government's own efforts to

would accept the outcome of a referendum, even if a majority in Northern Ireland were to reject a solution which would favour a nationalist perspec-

In relation to the last point, Mr Hume says that a simultaneous referendum both north and south of the border "would require a yes from each. If either says no, it's not on. How much further can I go to reasment should look like, nor has Gerry Adams," he said.

On that same point, Mr Adams says: "I and Sinn Fein want to see an Irish national democracy but what form that takes is for the Irish people to decide". He said that were Sinn Féin's goal of a united Ireland to be rejected in a referendum, even just by a Northern major-"we would continue to seek a Republican model but through the normal political

Mr Adams was not prepared at this stage to reveal what might be the minimum terms

to lay down their guns. But he told the FT that he would like to see the IRA "in permanent

He said "We are trying to take the armed element out of the conflict, all aspects of it and not just the IRA. British forces are one element and the loyalist paramilitaries are another. We are trying to put together a political process, such that those presently involved in the military side of the struggle can become involved in a political process, putting aside the military aspect. I would like to see the IRA in permanent retirement. The Unionists have no monopoly in wanting peace". He continued: "John Hume

and I do not profess to have all the answers. Others also have to grasp the nettle as well, and we may have to make it easier for them to do so. If our proposals are not good enough, then let's hear why and see if people at this end can accommodate them. Everything is possible if the British government has the political will to move this process forward".

The Northern Ireland Office has responded with predictable caution to Mr Adams remarks. It said yesterday: "Is there anyone who does not want to see all the paramilitaries in permanent retirement? Ending violence is enough of a valid, failure and the nand long overdue aim in itself send to the IRA.

without it having to be paid for in concessions or precondi-tions. There can be no conces-

An NIO spokesman also referred to a key speech made by Northern Ireland secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew last December, in which Sir Patrick said: "in the event of a genuine and established cessation of violence the whole range of responses that we have had to make to that violence could and would inevitably be looked at afresh".

Clearly the biggest burdle to the entire Hume Adams initiative, however, is whether terms can now be agreed for the IRA to lay down and hand in its weapons, without either the British or irish governments giving the impression they are in any way negotia-ting with the IRA or Sinn Fein, which could prompt a Unionist

Mr Hume has raised the stakes by putting his political career on the line in backing the initiative. If it fails, so will his credibility as the leader of

As the focus now shifts to the British and Irish governments' responses expected next week, they must be well aware of the significance of such a failure and the message it will

Britain in brief



High Court clears deal on Wharf

The High Court yesterday approved the £1.1bu restructuring package proposed for Canary Wharf, allowing the development to come out of administration and operate again as a solvent group of

The government's commitment to fund the extension of the Juhilee underground line to Canary Wharf was dependant on yesterday's court rui-ing. It also means Canary Wharf can now finally sign contracts with two large new tenants which will take the occupancy level of the develop-ment up to around 50 per cent.

US cable investment

A US cable company has raise more than £270m to invest in building cable television and telephone networks in the UK. the largest sum to be raised by the industry so far it is

International CableTel has raised \$411m (£274m) in a mixture of debt and equity in New York to build cable networks in England, Scotland and Wales. Altogether the company, which includes the for-mer interests of Insight Com-munications, holds UK franchises covering 950,000 homes in the UK.

Interest in New Towns

The Commission for New Towns reported a doubling of inquiries over the last six months from potential pur-chasers of land and buildings. The Commission, which is responsible for selling off the assets of the 21 former English new towns, said improved marketing techniques and a revival in economic confidence had led to a revival.

Recovery in top jobs market

Executive recruitment is showing signs of recovery with the highest growth in demand recorded for staff for five years, it was reported by MSD the human resource consultancy in its latest quarterly survey. "During the first half of the year we were very encouraged to see the level of recruitment at senior level stabilise", said Mr Garry Long MSL's chief executive.

MPs accuse Brunei

A group of Labour MPs last night accused the High Com-mission of Brunei in London of failing to honour debtaincurred by sponsored students from the Sultanate. The MPs said the Commission had failed to honour payments owed to the landlords of properties rented by their students. No one at the Commission was available for comment.

Costco case in court

Three of the UK's major super-market chains yesterday joined forces in a High Court action to block planning permission given for an American "warehouse club" to trade in Essex The case is being widely watched by the parts of the retail trade concerned about the impact the arrival of ware house clubs could have on traditional UK shopping outlets.
Thurrock borough council has given planning permission for the US company Costco to build a 12,880 square metre

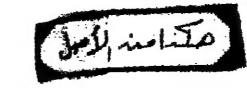
warehouse.
Sainsbury, Safeway and Tesco have objected to the proposed development, claiming the council acted unlawfully by treating it as a wholesaler

rather than a retailer. The hearing is expected to

£200m order for BAe unit

The government last night awarded a major £200m contract for ammunition to Royal Ordnance, ending a period of uncertainty for the British Aerospace subsidiary.

The announcement - coming at the very end of a Commons speech by Mr Jeremy Hanley, the armed forces minister will help safeguard nearly 1,000 jobs over five years.



Then it comes to stir-ring up public antipathy towards the pulp and paper industry, a picture of a horribly maimed fish goes a long way. Or so Greenpeace in Germany found several years ago, when as part of a campaign to promote "totally chlorine-free" (TCF) pulp and paper production, it put out a spoof version of the magazine Der Spiegel, complete with photographs claiming to show the devastating impact which pulp mill effluents could have on marine life. It must rank as one of German

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It must rank as one of German Greenpeace's most successful campaigns. By common consent, the environmental organisation did much to create the consumer pressure which has forced many German publishers, paper manufacturers and merchants to go "totally chlorine-free" in the last two years. This in turn has forced a number of pulp mills which substitute the cerman market to find substitute bleaching agents for the chlorine compounds they use.

"German Greenpeace took the ini-tiative against chlorine and it has succeeded," says Pertti Laine, director of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation's industrial and environmental unit. "We have had to invest billions of markka to change our bleaching methods." The latest in a long line of such investments will come on stream next month when Metsä-Botnia's Kaskinen mill in western Finland inaugurates a new ozone bleaching plant as part of its commitment to TCF production.

At least 10 Nordic pulp milk now have the capacity to produce TCF pulp, and nearly all of them have started these operations in the last couple of years. The investments have had to be made despite the severe financial squeeze which has gripped the industry as the pulp price has plummeted from more than \$800 (£570) a tonne in 1989 to the \$400 a tonne level which prevails today. The impetus has come because "nobody can afford to lose the German market", according to Richard Cockram, a consultant with the UK company NLK Consultants.

Germany is not the only country where environmentalists are pressing for TCF. Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands, as well as the Nordic countries are all now leading consumers of TCF pulp, helping TCF's share of Europe's graphic papers market to more than double from seven per cent to 15 per cent in the past year.

But the trend has been much slower to catch on in the UK, France, Italy and other European countries, where consumers have

been reluctant to pay extra for TCF.
There is no doubt that TCF pulp production costs more, simply because it requires substantial investment in new machinery. Thus the pulp mill wants a TCF premium

The Nordic pulp industry is under pressure to change its bleaching methods, writes Christopher Brown-Humes

Run-of-the-mill debates



The Mörrums Bruk Mill, Växsö, Sweden is meeting growing European demand for chlorine-free pulp

from the paper manufacturer, who wants one from the publisher, who in turn wants one from the endcustomer. This may be relatively easy to achieve in buoyant markets. But during the recession it has undoubtedly caused a squeeze which means not everyone in the chain is receiving the premium they require. Hans Burmeister, marketing director of Sweden's Sodra Cell, the biggest supplier of TCF market pulp in Europe, says his company is generally managing to obtain the DM100-DM150 (£41-£62) per tonne premium from German customers which it needs to cover its additional costs. But the premium is only relative to a very depressed general pulp price, he notes.

The recession has also intensified the debate about the most effective and cost-efficient TCF bleaching process. Some mills just use hydrogen peroxide, but this is very costly; some use a combination of hydrogan peroxide and enzymes, but the pulp produced is less bright. More recently, a number of mills have started using ozone, as this enhances pulp brightness. But the development has not been universally welcomed because the gas is

very reactive and highly poisonous.

A more fundamental debate centres on whether TCF is any more environmentally-friendly than the ECF (elemental chlorine-free) bleaching process it is replacing. The latter uses chlorine dioxide and is far less damaging to the environment than elemental chlorine which is being rapidly phased out. In modern ECF mills, emissions of chlorine compounds can be as low as 0.3kg-0.4kg per tonne of pulp produced, which is well below the 50kg

level common only a few years ago. A study by a group of Canadian scientists has added spice to the ECF/TCF debate. It has found evidence of fish being damaged by pulp mill effluents, irrespective both of the bleaching process used and whether it carries out any bleaching at all. It concludes there is something toxic in pulp-mill effluent, but that this cannot be attri-

buted to the bleaching plant. The question is whether such studies will slow growth in TCF demand or merely change the focus of the debate from chlorine dioxide to the wider issue of effluent-free pulping. Christoph Thies, a paper specialist with Greenpeace in Ham-

burg, is confident the trend towards TCF is irreversible. He gives two reasons for his view. First, increased recycling will create pressure for cleaner input of raw material. Second, he says that chlorine has to be eliminated if pulp mills are to achieve their wider ambition of totally enclosing their water systems so that they discharge no liquid effluent at all. "TCF is only a step on the way to an effluent-free mill," he states.

The view that TCF demand will continue to grow is supported by NLK Consultants, although it notes that this is a European issue and has not yet become an important concern in the US. It believes European demand for TCF pulp will grow from 1.8m tonnes in 1993, a 15 per cent market share, to 3.2m tonnes in 1996, a 25 per cent share.

But its predictions also show a persistent gap between consumption in the German-speaking and Nordic markets and the rest of Europe. It expects 70 per cent of the fine paper consumed in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and the Nordic states to be TCF grade in 1996 against only 10 per cent for the

Turning full circle at the power station

Europe's first energy plant fuelled by old tyres has opened in Britain, reports Tim Burt

Britain are not just running on four wheels but on a potential energy resource – tyres which an innovative power

company has begun burning to generate electricity. The idea of burning tyres raises images of noxious fumes and black smoke, but Elm Energy, a US joint venture, has won permission to open Europe's first power station in Britain, fuelled by Michelins, Goodyears, Pirellis

and other makes. An intensive lobbying campaign by the company has convinced regulators and local authorities not only that drivers' last punctured tyres may be consign safely to the furnace, but that a stringent recycling system will ensure they will not then inhale the by-products.

Standing outside Kim Knergy's newly completed power station in Wolverhampton, which has its formal opening early in November, Anne Evans, the nanaging director, claims the recycling facility will out-perform other waste-to-energy schemes.

An average tyre, she says, contains the equivalent energy of 12 cu m of natural gas and is second only to oil in British Thermal Units (BTU), the common measure of heat energy produced during incineration.

Following the completion of pre-production tests at the plant, truck loads of old tyres are being fed into five giant furnaces where they will burn at up to 950°C. Klm Energy expects to generate heat energy of 13,500 BTU per pound, compared with 12,000 BTU for coal, 2,500 BTU for household rubbish and 1,500 BTU for food

Burning tyres is hot work and could easily produce the steam to drive a turbine.

Elm Energy's success has rested on citing similar operations in the US where the tyre industry can dispose of its rubbish at one end of a power station and see no harmful gases emerge at the

The company – formed by Nipsco, the Indiana utility group,

and the Performance Service Corporation of Connecticut - has pioneered a system which it claims will consume 21 per cent of Britain's waste tyres with minimal emissions.

That claim is based on its unique power generation and recycling process.

Under the system, batches of tyres are rammed into furnaces, where all the material is expected to burn so rapidly that almost no carbon gases can form. Split-level hearths in the furnace will, meanwhile, pulsate along a series of steps so that the ash mostly steel wire - can be fed into hoppers for recycling to the scrap metal industry.

Elm Energy convinced regulators and local authorities not only that your last punctured tyre may be consigned safely to the furnace,

but that a stringent recycling system ensures you will not inhale the by-products

Before reaching the next stage, where furnace gases flow around water-filled drums to produce turbine-driving steam, any remaining organic material is incinerated in reburn tunnels fed with combustion air. Having produced enough energy for 30MW of electricity - supplying 25,000 homes - the tyres job is

If the remaining gases were pumped straight into the atmosphere, environmentalists would have justifiable complaint. But Elm Energy says its recycling means that emissions of harmful substances will be less than one-millionth of the World Health Organisation limits.

First, the flue gases are filtered through hundreds of Gore-Tex

bags to extract zinc oxide. The company plans to sell this waste to the tyre industry for re-use in new products.

Remaining waste gases flow

into a lime reactor which converts harmful sulphur dioxide into calcium sulphite. At the final stage, the sulphite will be filtered through another series of Gore-Tex bags and the residue

sold for building materials.

"There will be no black smoke, no environmental problem, predicts Evans.

"If this plant isn't clean enough then you cannot build anything

She may be right. But all this technology costs money and the government, determined to encourage alternatives to coal. Elm Energy's initial contracts with the Non Fossil Fuel Agency, which purchases the power and resells it to Midlands Electricity company, are confidential.

vans says these contracts would be withdrawn if she revealed their value. All she will admit is that the government has guaranteed the company's short-term contracts, so helping the company to borrow the capital to set up the

More than £48m has been invested in the Wolverhampton plant and Elm Energy is confident of a handsome return.

That income has a double bonus: on the one hand, the government wants to promote waste-to-energy schemes; on the other, the tyre industry is keener to see its tyres go into power generation than landfill sites.

Elm Energy says its operation will be cheaper than other waste-fuelled power schemes because there will not be tonnes of burnt ash to dispose of.

The company is so certain it can provide energy at the right price that it is already planning further plants in Scotland, southern England and continenta

In Wolverhampton, Evans says people have the right attitude: "They're not afraid of tyres."

PEOPLE

Hanson sends Cotton to chair Renison

Hanson is taking a "hands on" approach to Renison Goldfields Consolidated, the quoted Australian mining group in which the Anglo-American conglomerate has a 40 per cent stake and which has a far from sparkling recent financial record. Hanson has persuaded one of its senior directors, Anthony Cotton, to become deputy chairman at Renison for a year before taking over from chairman Max Roberts; he will stay to help with the changeover.

Hanson acquired the Renison stake when it paid £3.9bn for Consolidated Gold Fields in 1989, a purchase that proved far from the bonanza Lord Hanson must have hoped for.

Adding up

Campbell Anderson, until recently Renison's chief executive, used to say that there were three types of company in Hanson's portfolio - the A companies were core businesses,and not for sale; buyers were actively being sought for C companies; leaving the B companies which were for sale if someone should come along with the right offer. Poor old Renison, he suggested, was on

Hanson was keen to give the impression yesterday that Renison had now moved to the A list and has "persuaded one of our senior people to take this appointment". According to an official, Han-

son is anxious to increase its presence in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region and Renison might provide some oppor-tunities for that. Renison, analysts suggest, is an ideal candidate for "Han-

sonisation". It has been badly hit by the collapse in most commodity prices and recorded net losses for the past two financial years. But there have also been strategic mistakes which have added to the pain. Hanson's chance to move in emerged because Campbell Anderson, seen as the likely successor to the present chair-man, decided instead to move to North Broker Hill Peko, another Australian resources

group, as chief executive. Cotton has been Hanson's deputy chief operating officer UK, responsible for the group's main building products interests. He has been chairman of ARC, Beazer, London Brick, Butterley Brick and, until its recent sale, Ever Ready UK. He has been a director of Renison since 1991 and will continue as a Hanson director.

His move to Sydney has led to two consequential appoint-ments at Hanson. Ross Chiese becomes assistant chief operating officer UK. He has been an associate director of the group since 1990. Andrew Dougal becomes deputy finance director and an associate director.

Baron for Owners Abroad



KPMG Peat Marwick, the UK's second largest accountancy firm, following changes in all the senior positions. Gerry Acher was yesterday

announced as the new head of audit and accounting, following the elevation of his predecessor, Michael Fowle, to become head of the firm's south-east practice. Fowle takes over from Colin

Sharman, currently deputy senior partner, who becomes senior partner at the start of next year following the retirement of Jim Butler.

Acher's current role as head of corporate finance is taken on by Neil Lerner, currently head of privatisations. He will probably continue to hold this existing job.

Roger White, currently head of tax, will remain as the senior tax partner, but it is believed there will be a new head of the tax discipline. while White will concentrate more on practice protection. Tim Hayward is remaining

head of insolvency.

All the appointments except
Sharman's have effect from the start of this month. But that leaves one vacant post from Christmas: deputy senior part-ner, which Sharman inherited when Bill Morrison retired, and which he will vacate from the start of 1994.

KPMG is a firm with six regional partnerships, but with the south east accounting for 60 per cent of fee income. That has traditionally made head of the south-east the number two position in the firm.

Sharman is still considering whether he will also need a new deputy senior partner, on top of a management team of about eight people to include the heads of the disciplines, and functional areas such as practice protection and risk management

Acher, 48, who led the firm on bid defence work including Hanson and ICI, BTR and Hawker Siddeley, and Whyte and Mackay and Invergordon, says there is still too much "low-balling" or competitive fee-cutting between accountancy firms. One of his priorities is to give the firm a higher profile in the current audit and accounting debates.

Jon Madonna, chairman and chief executive of KPMG Peat Marwick in the US, has also taken on the role of deputy chairman of the firm worldwide. Madonnna's new job, which has just been created, will give him responsibility for Asia/Pacific and Latin America, and for developing international marketing and commu-



Owners Abroad has appointed Francis Baron as chief executive, thus completing the top management reorganisation triggered by the resignation of Howard Klein from both posi-

tions in July. Baron has been chairman and chief executive of Anglo-Saxon Television, a family company he set up last year after he resigned from Euro-pean TV Networks.

Mike Jones has been appointed finance director at ALEXON group; he moves from the Merchant Retail group, where he was group finance director. He replaces David Cohen who left on Octo-

In April this year Alexon went through some turnoil as three of its biggest institutional shareholders forced a change of management after some dismal financial results. Then. Lawrence Snyder Michael Julien, former chief executive of Storehouse who was appointed non-executive chairman of Owners Abroad in August, is understood to have wented a chief executive with strong management and marketing skills.

Klein was forced to resign after he issued a profits warning only four months after Owners Abroad narrowly fought off a hostile bid from rival Airtours.

Baron joined W.H. Smith in 1983 to build a television division from scratch. By 1991, when W.H. Smith sold its tele vision interests, the division had become one of the largest satellite operators in the UK. Baron helped put together an

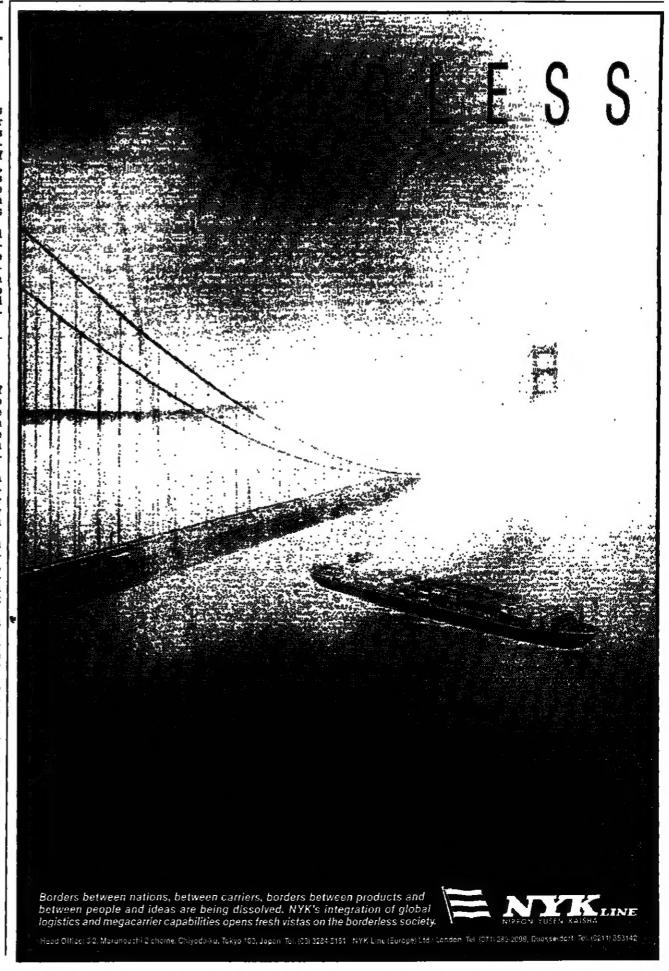
international consortium, which became European Television Networks, to buy the business from W.H. Smith for But he resigned last year

after differences with the foreign shareholders and set up Anglo-Saxon Television.

Ridsdale resigned as joint chief operating officers. John Sadler, a former finance director of the John Lewis Partnership was appointed non-executive chairman and John Osborn, a forber 1 to join EDS Europe. mer director of Sears, took

Alexon lost nearly £1m before tax last year and passed its final dividend; it had made an £11.8m profit in the previ-ous year. Its interim figures showed a pre-tax loss of stepped down as chairman and £10.2m, against profits of Ruth Henderson and Peter £1.5m last time round.

over as chief executive.



the Oscars to Europe's leading "quality" companies last week. But amid all the razzamatazz in Turin no one seemed to notice that this year's winning businesses - like some of last

year's - are foreign owned. The 1993 award conferred by the European Foundation for Quality Management was won by last year's runner up, the European operations of textile products group Milliken - a US company with its headquarters in Georgia. ICL, whose manufacturing and supply division had to settle for second place, is an 80 per cent subsidiary of Fujitsu of Japan. Ranx Xerox, which was the overall victor in 1992, the first year the Award was given, is a hybrid, 50 per cent controlled by the US Xerox Corporation.

The non-European parentage of all three companies is too much of a coincidence to let pass. At the very least it reinforces the view that Total Quality Management - the addictive religion of the qual-ity movement - remains better understood and more widely accepted in North America (where it was invented) and in Japan (where it was first properly applied). Nearly all the attendees at

last week's Quality Forum organised by the EFQM, which culminated in the prize-giving ceremony in Turin, were con-verts. The challenge they face is how to spread the word beyond the tiny elite of mostly large companies which prac-tice what they preach, and how to reinvigorate a message which may be losing its force. At its baldest, TQM means applying quality right across an organisation - to delivery systems, administration and customers as well as to a product or service - in the quest for competitive advantage. TQM reached Europe in the early to mid-1980s and has

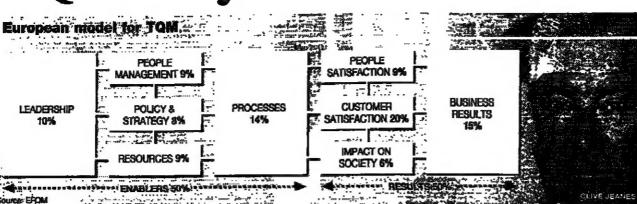
been as durable as any recent

management idea, although it

scepticism in the market place.

TQM is struggling to make an impact in Europe, says Tim Dickson

Quality street cred



For some it was an attractively simple concept, which has now been needlessly overloaded with jargon and used as a meaningless "catch all" for other management nostrums. Consultancy firms – always on the look out for new ways to sell their services - have contributed to a feeling that TQM has been superseded by concepts such as Just In Time manufacturing or Business Process Re-engineering.

The fuss over European-wide certification - notably complaints by small and mediumsized suppliers about the time and money spent on acquiring the quality standard ISO 9000 appease their more demanding customers - has also given TQM a bad name. On top of this, surveys have shown that TQM programmes have too often failed to deliver the sort of benefits anticipated by managers. The correlation between TQM and financial perfor-mance is particularly hard to prove, though one recently demonstrated that out of a sample of 29 companies running formal programmes, 70 per cent did better than the average in their sectors.

Mike Gallagher, manager of the European quality award, acknowledges the confusion but argues that TQM has highlighted four "timeless" ideas which are constantly of importance to the top team" These are the importance of the customer; the need to involve everyone in the company; the concept of process management (every business activity should be viewed as a process); and the goal of continuous improvement.

Business Process Re-engineering, he argues, is really just looking at process management starting with first principles. It does not provide all the answers what about employee involvement or customers, for instance:

Besides its annual prizes and award, EFQM's mission is to stimulate quality activity as widely as possible, notably through the application of its sment model*. This is based on the simple premise that processes are the means by which the organisation harnesses and releases the talents of its people to produce

As the illustration demonstrates, customer satisfaction, people (employee) satisfaction and impact on society are achieved through a company's leadership driving its policy and strategy, people manage-This ultimately leads to excel-lence in business results. Each of the nine elements is a criterion which can be used to assess the organisation's prog-ress towards TQM and thereafter to adopt improvement strategies. The percentages shown are those used for the purpose of the EFQM award, but can be varied depending on the nature

of the company concerned. Besides its use as a self-improvement tool, Gallagher believes that the EFQM selfassessment process offers a sound basis for strategic direction and priority setting.

Naturally enough, strong endorsement comes from ICL and Milliken Europe. The latter's chairman and managing director, Clive Jeanes, adds that the assessment process for the award was "a great learning tool" and among other things prompted him to institute bi-monthly meetings of top executives from the compa-

ny's four European businesses Jeanes says Milliken Europe first adopted a planned approach to quality in 1981.

"We have always believed in buying the best technology, but I remember being struck how the Japanese in those days were more efficient than us using machines that were 20 years older

By 1985, the company noted that measuring performance was having a bottom line impact, but it still had not asked its customers what they wanted. "When we did we were amazed to find that after product quality, on-time delivery was the next most important item. At that stage, however, only 75 per cent were arriving when we said they would."

Jeanes says Milliken's TQM took off in 1987 and 1988. Before visiting Japan in 1991 -when 24 of the company's exec-utives saw 10 companies in 10 days - he read six textbooks on the subject.

With a quality programme you add to your costs in the very short term, you recognise problems you didn't know about. But the payback over two to three years is tremen-

and applications for the 1994 award (deadline March 18th) from EFQM, Avenue des Pleia des 19, 1200 Brussels.

Navigators without a pear map or compass

UK companies are failing to look to the future with a sense of strategy, says Christopher Lorenz

any British trying to navigate their way to competitive survival in the dark, without either a map or a compass. Almost a third look no further forward than me-year budgets, and more than half have no long-term

This bleak picture emerges from a study of the way that over 1.100 UK companies of all shapes and sizes think, plan and act strategically or fail to do so.

But this picture may be just the tip of a miserable iceberg. The study, called "Unplanned and Unprepared, suggests that, on top of the 30 per cent which have no strategy, up to another 40 per cent plan

The study was conducted by a thriving consultancy called Strategy for Success formed out of one of the few fee-earning parts of the National Economic Development Office, which was wound up at the end of last year.

The study makes instructive reading, even if its terminology owes too much to Nedo's belief in formal planning and too little to the new business orthodoxy of what academics call "emergent strategles": those which emerge from entrepreneurial action, albeit within a loose strategic

This view sees "strategy' and "planning" as two separate animals: strategy as a sense of direction, and planning as the detailed road map which one uses to get

The "planning" frame of reference causes the authors of the study to be a little over-ready to suggest that three-year formal plans are too short for many companies' best interests, when in many industries - consumer and office electronics, for instance - this is the furthest that

things can be plotted in any Of the 1,100 companies surveyed, no fewer than 15 with revenues of over £500m put themselves in the category of having "unclear goals", or

none at all. A further five were contained in the 10 per cent of the sample which had only short-term goals. Making only short-term plans may be excusable, even sensible, but having only short-term goals, or none at all, is suicidal. As one respondent put it, doing so is tantamount to being "adrift and rudderless

Another problem which emerges from the survey is the failure of some companies to realise that planning can and should - be much more than just a corporate activity directed at acquisitions and marketing: plans, or at least goals and strategies, should be formulated at every level of the organisation and for every activity.

in a turbulent sea".

Commenting on the results of the study, Brian Weekes, the consultancy's managing director, says some companies "have won in the UK third

division without taking a strategic view, and therefore think they'll survive in the

international marketplace". But other companies recognise the problem: "They know they've been jammed into a short-term timeframe - often by their own top

management - and they know they must get out of it," says. Weekes. For sizeable companies he cites two particular impediments to ong-term thinking or planning, depending on the type of company.

In private companies, the main problem is often the owner-manager's refusal to allow strategic issues to be thrashed out properly because of the obvious need either for large injections of capital or for radical changes in the nature of the business - or

or subsidiaries of public companies, he says a frequent problem is that their freedom to think and act strategically is constrained by their lack of complete control over key activities such as marketing or manufacturing; these are carried out by the parent company surprisingly often Weekes says.

A third common barrier to strategic thinking and action is the lack of cross-functional collaboration, especially between marketing, engineering and manufacturing.

Unplanned and Unprepared From Strategy for Success. £10.50. Fax (UK) 071-833 9116.

Improving business with the community's help

nvolvement in the community through training, economic regeneration, education and equal opportunities policies can improve corporate performance, according to a new survey of top business executives and other opinion

Companies with active community affairs programmes are likely to have a more comworkforce. the survey found. There are also benefits in public image and customer loyalty.

Over 80 per cent of those polled said that a reputation for being socially responsive and responsible is becoming a competitive advantage.

The findings of the survey were presented last night to the annual meeting of the Per Cent Club in London, a group of large companies which

profits to community activi-Sponsored by six, blue-chip

companies, with well-developed community involvement programmes, the survey was ed on interviews with 700 opinion leaders around the country, including more than 120 top executives from both industry and the City of

The survey will offer son reassurance to business leaders who must justify every expense in the current adverse climate. However, it also suggests ways in which companies can maximise the returns from their community involve

· City investors should be informed of the rationale for community involvement programmes - at present, they

devote a proportion of their are often unconvinced of the Senior managers also need

more convincing of the value of community programmes they are often less clear about their objectives. Local managers should be given greater responsibility

for community investment programmes, as this will result in more effective links with community organisa are needed with national charities to support the aims of

both businesses and charities through strategies such as cause-related marketing. Further information from Opinion Leader Research, 30 Grays Inn Road, London WCLX 8HR. Tel: 071 242 2228

John Willman

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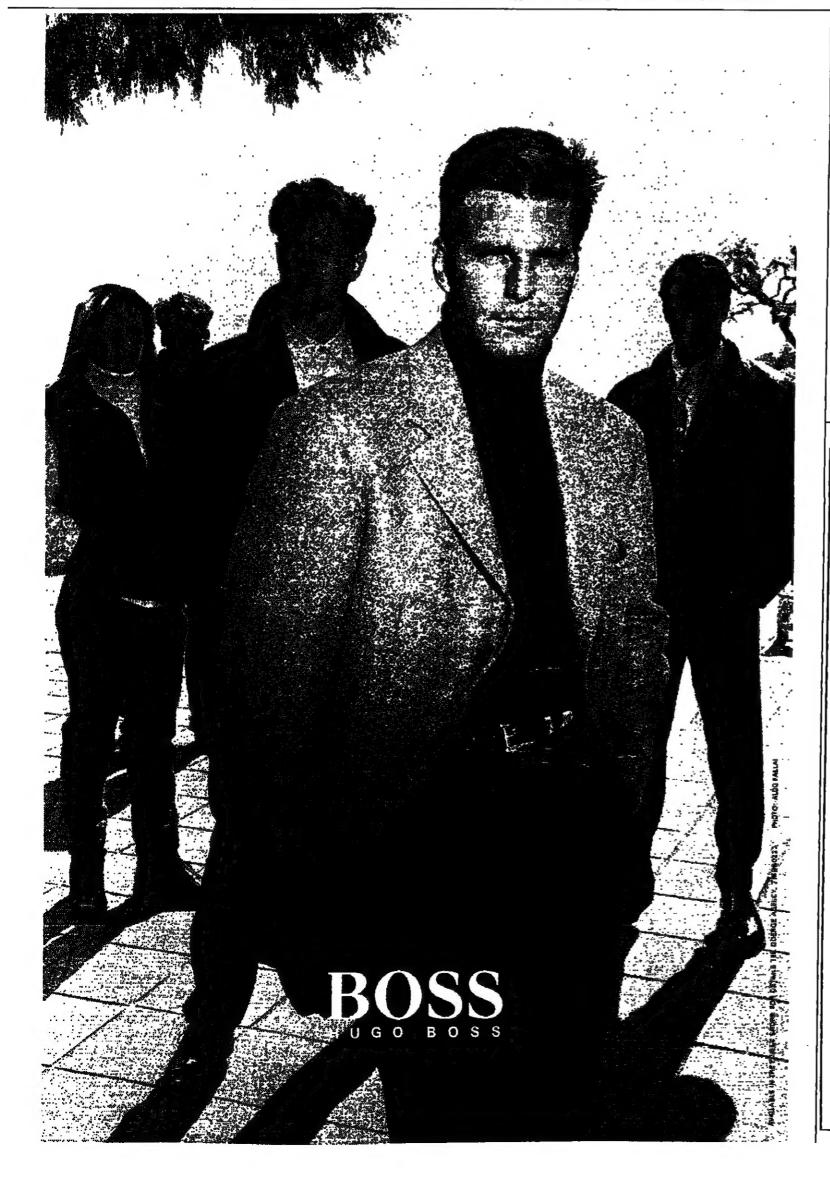
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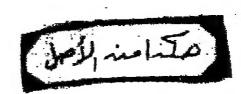
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don. That was at the Wigmore Hall in 1957 - interesting to note that she was already

described as "the great mez-

zo-soprano", although she had

only recently made her first major recordings. Clearly the

word had got around. Two of the songs that she sang then

were in Monday's selection.

and were among her most suc-cessful: Mahler's "Rheinlegend-

chen" and "Ich bin der Welt

The latter exemplifies the

very best of Ludwig. When she

sings that she "rests in a quiet realm", music and singer seem

spiritually at one. The song's

expansive, late romantic vocal

lines, unfolded as though time

is of no importance, could not

be better suited to this voice.

The sound, always at its most

beautiful in the lower middle.

simply pours out, relaxed, free from tension, expressive of

Part of that is achieved

because she does not try to

seize upon the words in the

intense style of a Schwarzkopf

or Fischer-Dieskau. Ludwig's

way has been simpler and to

that extent less memorable in

what she has had to say than

they were. But this was not the

occasion to complain. By the

time Charles Spencer allowed

the final notes of Strauss's

"Morgen" to die away, the singer's unforced eloquence

had unarguably made her case

reign of nearly half a century.

abhanden gekommen".

Television/Patrica Morison

Deadly fanaticisms

dic Jews regard television as impious, they will not have seen the play that has caused the controversy, Wall of Silence (BBC1, Sunday).

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Comedy writers Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran (both Jewish) set a murder mystery in the strictly orthodox, mysterious Hassidic community in north London, which sounded promising and was mysterious enough. But, by the end I still had no idea how the estateagent with the gentile wife in Bristol fitted in, nor how the lady with a fractured skull underneath her ultra-orthodox wig came to be sitting on a

The greater mystery was how such poppycock ever achieved the Screen One slot. Marks and Gran's comedy background showed in wooden dialogue, preposterous charac-ters and huge sign-posts to tell viewers what is going to hap-pen next. The police chief agrees to lend his car to a colleague. "Have you seen the way he treats his car, gov?", cautions a minion. Surprise, surprise: the hero, PC Mullens (Bill Paterson) writes it off in the next scene

The story starts when the corpse of a kosher butcher is pulled from a canal in his Volvo, a swastika daubed on the bonnet. But this is no racial murder, as PC Mullens realises when he is informed, implausibly late in the day, that the corpse had been stabbed through the eyes. Mullins duly expounds more

customs of the Hassidim. The butcher must have been a moythis grisly ritual. On Radio 4's Sunday programme, orthodox Jews expressed fears (a touch umrealistic to my mind) that viewers might link eye-stab-bing to the ancient libel about Jews ritually murdering Christian children and incite anti-

According to The Jewish Chronicle, the upshot was that PC Mullens's spiel was altered to include the qualifying com-ments about eye-stabbing being entirely alien to British ellite data than to brave the Jewry. However, a closer look suggests that this was a strangely grudging and partial

The Encyclopaedia Judaica's discussion of legal penalties for moysers - the source, I would guess, for Marks and Gran gives no record of anyone ever being treated thus, although some European rabbi seems to have favoured mutilation as a lesser punishment than excom-

So why did Gran and Marks get it wrong? It is legitimate to write plays about Hassidim or any other religious group. But the odder and more alien the group appears to the rest of society, the more it behoves a playwright to strive to be accu-

Assignment: The Price of Gold (BBC 2, Tuesday) spelled out something I should have known, the vital link between a decade of gold prospecting in Brazil and the destruction of the control of the state the rain forest. Julian Pettifer's interesting report painted a vivid picture of the frontier mentality of Amazon mining

The gold prospectors are as one would expect - tough, uneducated men who have little faith that they will make old bones. A bullet, a mining accident, or malaria will probably get them first. Very low down their list of anxieties, if any-

where at all, are the long-term health risks of using mercury. Mercury is banned, but it is used in large quantities. It is mixed with the sludge dredged from the river because it bonds to the gold particles. Some of this mercury is released into the river and a great deal more is burnt off with blow-lamps. This vapor mixes with ash result is high levels of mercury in the atmosphere above the Amazon and, in some unspecified circumstances, methyl mercury forming in the rivers. This deadly substance passes up the food chain and ends up in fish eaten by the riverside

How serious are the healthriaks is as yet unclear. Scientists are keener to analyse sat-

Amazon to study its poisoned inhabitants. However, experts spoke of a "time-bomb" which will inevitably go off, even if the gold-prospectors can be persuaded to burn off mercury in retorts, which is cheaper as well as safe.

Minister for the Amazon and Environment, Mr Rubens Rimpero referred to levels of metal mercury being higher than those in an industrial accident at Minemata in Japan. Pettifer reminded us that fish contaminated with methyl mercury caused "hundreds" of deaths and led to "thousands" of children being born with disabili-ties. Momentarily, my willing-ness to follow Mr Pettifer dipped. The consequences of more precision. Why are documentary-makers so often cavalier with statistics?

The statistics of the Waco siege are clear enough; 84 corpses, 20 of them children. Anything but clear, as we were reminded by Panorama; Sinful Messiah (BBC 1, Monday) is whether the FBI were justified in mounting the assault on the Branch Davidian headquarters. Fresh material given to Panorama, a taped conversation between cult-leader David Koresh and his lawyer late in the siege, suggests that Koresh did not want mass-suicide.

Koresh explained that he was delaying until he had finished writing the revelations of the Tweifth Seal. This the FBI dismissed as mere bluff, so Koreah's deadline was literally that. However, the first chapters of the book were found on the word-processor. Which will be the lucky publisher who lays hands on the Sinful Messiah's final

Timewatch; A Hidden History (BBC 2, 8.00) told the story of another kind of deadly fanaticism which led ten Republicans to starve themselves to death in the Maze Prison hunger strike of 1981. Survivors talked about the experience, one of them describing the sensation as being like having one's brain was to have left the attitude of attitude to the hunger-strike



Timothy Busfield, Bill Paterson and Warren Mitchel in 'Wall of Silence

rubbed with a grater. This well-researched documentary aired allegations that despite the Thatcher government's claims not to have struck any deal with the Republican prisoners, negotiations were conducted throughout the strike and concessions were quietly made after it ended.

The programme's weakness

the Catholic Church so changed when it was deemed unclear, especially as Maze that the protestors intended to chaplain Father Dennis Faul played a prominent part in the drama and was interviewed at some length. What seemed to emerge was that fasting in protest was permissible indeed, as I recall, St Patrick was said to have fasted against an uncooperative king

However, the hierarchy's

die. Once across this rather fine line, they would presumably have committed suicide, a mortal sin for Catholics. If this was indeed the case, the fact that papel emissaries brought Bobby Sands a golden crucifix before he died needed some explanation.

Wexford Festival/**David Murray**

Tchaikovsky's 'Cherevichki'

Recital/Richard Fairman

Christa Ludwig's

farewell tour

he generation of sing-ers that burst on to the stage after the war

is gradually taking its

final bow. Earlier this year Die-

trich Fischer-Dieskau retired with unexpected suddenness, leaving probably the last of his

loug-serving German contem-

poraries to continue progress

on her own, more patiently

It is extraordinary to think

that Christa Ludwig made her

professional debut as long ago

as 1946. Since then she has

been at the top of her profes-

sion, a warm, glowing, Ger-

manic mezzo-soprano with

power enough to conquer some

of the summits of the operatic repertoire. However ambitious

she was, stretching up to

Beethoven's soprano Leonore,

embracing Wagnerian hero-

ines, the voice never suggested

said in Salzburg, New York

and Paris. A pair of recitals at

the Wigmore Hall and a con-

cert with the Philharmonia

next February constitute her

final London appearances. A tear was in the singer's eye as she finished her encore at the

second of the recitals on Mon-

day, but the evening seemed

more a cause for rejoicing that

she can still sing so much so

well, some passing problems with intonation apart.

The programme was illus-

trated with the leaflet advertis-

ing her debut recital in Lon-

she had gone too far. Farewells have already been

f some of us knew any-thing about this obscure Tchaikovsky opera, it was probably just that it was called something like "The Tsarina's Slippers". Even that turns out to be wrong: the footgear at stake is elegant travel-ling boots. On hearing that Vakula the Smith, whose mother is the sexy old witch Solokha, needs to get hold of those cherevichici to win the hand of Oksana, however, ENO regulars can guess that the libretto was drawn from the same Gogol story as Rimsky-Korsakov's Christmas (Gogol's title). The latter was premiered

ten years later, in 1896. "Vakula the Smith" was Tchaikovsky's name for his first version (1874); the new label came with the definitive, much-revised score. That is what Francesca Zambello has staged for Wexford (in the original language), with admirable resource, plenty of colour, seven Russian and Ukrainian leads, a Russian conductor, and what seems to be half of the town's kids as little demons, wood sprites, village children and court pages. Bruno Schwegi's designs, wittily economical, conjure up a

fine, wintry fairytale nimbus Not only Miss Zambello's clever imagination keeps the opera bubbling, but also Alexander Anissimov's light, confident hand with the music. If Tchaikovsky's score is less brightly enamelled than Rimsky's, it is also more developed, more humanly expressive and often earthier too. The

comedy reveals a more sympathetic ear for folk accents indeed, the composer rarely sounds as close-to-the-ground Russian as he does here. The visiting Slav singers make the most of that. Especially in the grossly Gogolian scene where Solokha is beset by a succession of grizzled lechers: in Rimaky's opera that is only a cartoon, in Tchaikovsky's a lusty

Roman Tsymbala's husky hero and Marine Levitt's fresh Valentina Cherbinina's ripely irresistible witch-mother, with rolling eye and a hairdo with curved horns, and Leonid Boldin's lubricious old Devil; Vladimir Matorin's stentorian bass for Oksana's father, a patriarchal ram, and Wjaches-lay Weinorovski and Anatoly Lochak as Schoolmaster and His Excellency Potemkin (notably refined singing in his couplets) - all get their teeth firmly into their roles. Keith Latham's Mayor lives up to their enthusiastic style.

By comparison the orchestra sounded slightly backward, and Anissimov too polite about following his singers: stage and pit occasionally slipped out of synch. But one should not look this gift horse in the mouth: with all its trappings, quite opulent by Wexford standards, it prances and curvets to splendid effect.

Sponsored by Goodbody Stockbrokers & AIB Capital Markets. Festival continues until October 31

Theatre/Malcolm Rutherford

Looking Through a Glass Onion

here is a mildly biblical sound to Looking Through a Glass Onion, the new enter-tainment at the Criterion. "Glass Onion" is the name of a song by the late John Lennon; the looking through bit reminds one of St Paul, darkly. The sub-title is more accurate: John Lennon in Word and Music.

The show is probably for addicts: to others it may seem a shade dull. Lennon is not nearly as inspired a musician as his one-time Beatles colleague, Paul McCartney. Nevertheless, he has a good story to tell. As the Beatles broke up, he went off with Yoko Ono to do his own thing. Someone else who did their own thing shot him dead in the street in New York.

I admire the discretion of the proaction. There are the sounds of a couple of gun shots at the beginning, but we do not move to the final killing. This is largely a one-man show, written and performed by John Waters as Lennon. Waters simply tells the tale and sings the songs. "We didn't come from Liverpool," he says

of the early Beatles, "we were just there." When they took off, "every day was like the world cup final" (which England won when the Beatles were at their peak).

Lennon admits the musical superiority of McCartney and the first act ends on "Strawberry Fields" with the group still together. Then Lennon broke away, Yoko Ono, he claims not even knowing initially who he was. The pair of them became part of the peace movement of the early 1970s. According to the Waters version, the Anglo-Saxon press attacked Lennon because Yoko was a "Nip". The second half, however, is mainly

songs, with some vary effective lighting by Peter Neufeld and the musical direction and keyboards by Stewart D'Arietta. It struck me that there was one very clever off-rhyme; "working placebo" with "working class ego", but the linguistic acoustics are not perfect and I may have misheard it. Yet the piece did remind me of another off-rhyme, at least in modern English: "Since 'tis not to be had at



John Waters

home, He'll travel for a martyrdom." I've changed the gender, but that's the sort of thing Glass Ordon is meant to be about: from Merseyside to London to the US. The religious touch in the title is not accidental.

Criterion Theatre. (071) 839 4488

Jazz/Garry Booth Sonny's flights of fancy

colossus", is generally regarded as one of the most important (surviving) figures in modern jazz. With a considered technique and driven by awesome stamina and dexterity, the 64 year old New Yorker has set the standard for saxophone the improvisors for the last 40 years.

An annual visitor to Europe, he is

fussy about the venues he plays and on Monday he brought the regular band and his rag bag of battered old tunes to the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. For the committed Rollins fans this will have been a source of great relief and joy: since the 1970s the Rollins repertoire has consisted of short but strong melodies which provide recognisable reference points for the saxophonist's flights of fancy. The band's role is strictly a as reliable support crew which provides some mid-air refuelling for the boss between aerobatics.

So it was on Monday. With a famillar flight plan comprising old favour-ites such as "Duke of fron", "Prelude to a Kiss", and "Long Ago and Far-away", Rollins roared matter-of-factly over his musical landscape like a veteran flying circus pilot. Breathtaking

cuted effortlessly; now he loops around a fast moving melody with deadly grace, later ambushing the rhythm from behind before finally turning genial barrel rolls through a tin pan alley tune like "Tennessee

The band looks skyward indulgently, Jerome Harris and Boh Cranshaw on electric emitar and bass were solid and slavish while Cliff Anderson's trombone supplied buoyant fat notes to fill where Rollins took a breather. A new and welcome addition to the band came in the unlikely shape of percussionist Victor See Yuan whose Confucian appearance belied a splendidly kinetic way with congas and various shakers.

But if Rollins retains all the old firepower as well as the chocs-away trickery in his display, the repertoire is beginning to sound all too familiar for a performer whose appeal has always been strongest heard live. The corny, jangly C & W tinged "Tennessee Waltz" and his calypso trademark "Don't Stop the Carnival" brought loud cheers of approval from the full house, but that did not entirely extinguish the strong feeling of déjà vu.



BONN

Oper Tomorrow and next Wed: Valery Panov's production of Prokofiev's ballet Romeo and Juliet. Fri and next Tues: Cav and Pag. Sat Ken Russell's production of Salome. Sun: Otello with Vladimir Atlantov and Renato Bruson (0228-773667)

BORDEAUX

Palais des Sports Tonight, tomorrow: Alain Lombard conducts Orchestre National Bordeaux equitaine in works by Bartok, Worak, Ravel and Roussel, cello soloist Etienne Péclard (5648 5854) Grand Théâtre Tonight Ballet-Theâtre de Bordeaux presents two choreographies by Paolo Bortoluzzi, music by Vivaldi and Richard Strauss. Tomorrow: Balanchine programme (5648 5854)

COLOGNE

Opernhaus Tonight, Fri, Sun:

L'incoronazione di Poppea with Patricia Schuman, Kathleen Kuhlmann and Curtis Rayam. Tomorrow, Sat: Billy Budd with Boje Skovhus and Victor Braun. Next Tues and Wed: TanzForum triple bill, choreography by Jochen Ulrich. Next Thurs: revival of Tosca. Oct 29: Ann Murray song recital (0221-221 8400)

COPENHAGEN

The main event this week at the Royal Theatre is the first night on Sat of a new production of Peter Grimes, conducted by Alexander Gibson, staged by David Radok, with Stig Fogh Andersen, Tina Kiberg and Norman Balley (repeated Oct 25, 27, 30, Nov 1, 5, 11). Repertory Includes Carmen and a mixed bill of choreographies by Balanchine, Lander and Laerkesan (tel 3314 1002 fax 3312 3692)

■ FRANKFURT

Oper Tonight, Sun, next Wed: Sylvain Cambrelling conducts Peter Mussbach's new production of Wozzeck, with Dale Duesing and Kristine Ciesinski. Sat: Il barbiere di Siviglia. Mon: revival of Cosi fan tutta (069-236061) Alte Oper Tonight: Enoch zu Guttenberg conducts Munich Bach Collegium in Mozart opera overtures and anas. Sat Vassili Sinaiski conducts Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Rakhmaninov and Tchaikovsky, with piano soloist Litya Zilberstein, Mon: Vladimir Feltsman plays Beethoven plano sonatas. Tues, Andrei Gavrilov plays

Jahrhunderthalle Hoechst Fri, Sat, Sun: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Tues: The Hollies (069-3601

GOTHENBURG

Konserthuset Tonight: Hélène

Bach (069-1340 400)

Grimaud plays plane works by Brahms. Tomorrow and Fri: Grimaud plays Rakhmaninov's Second Piano Concerto in a Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra programme conducted by neame Jarvi, also featuring Stenhammar's Second Symphony (031-167000) Stora Teatern Tonight, Sat: Orpheus in the Underworld, Tomorrow, Fri, Sun, Tues: Robert North's new ballet The Russian Story, music by Tchalkovsky and Shostakovich. Oct 30: first night of new production of Rigoletto (031-131300/031-136500)

HAMBURG

Staatsoper Tonight, Sun (also Oct 27, 31): Gerd Albrecht conducts Günter Krämer's new production of Götterdämmerung, with Gabriele Schnaut, Slegfried Jerusalem, Matti Salminen and Günter von Kannen. Tomorrow: Schrittke's ballet Peer Gynt, choreographed by John Neumeier. Fri: Il trovatore with Julia Varady and Lando Bartolini, Sat-Die Zauberflöte. Next Tues: choreographies by Lubovich, Ek and Neumeier (040-351721)

LYON

Maguy Marin's production of Coppelia is revived tonight at Opéra de Lyon, with nine further performances over the next three weeks. The other production this month is Louis Erio's Offenbach adaptation, Des Contes d'Hoffmann, which can be seen on Fri. next Tues, Thurs and Sun. Both productions are conducted by Kent lagano (7200 4545)

MUNICH

EUROPAMUSICALE Throughout October, orchestras from 31 European countries are giving daily concerts as part of the lestival to show Europe's cultural diversity. Most take place at Gasteig. Tonight: James Conlon conducts Orchestre National de France in works by Florent Schmitt, Poulenc, Debussy and Ravel, with organ soloist Michel Bouvard. Tomorrow in Prinzregentantheater Athene State Orchestra. Fri in Prinzregentsortheater: Lelf Segerstan conducts Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Per Norgaard (b1923), Sibelius and Nielsen, with violin soloist Joshua Bell. Sat in Prinzregententheater: Lithuanian National Philhermonic Orchestra. Sun: Neeme Järvi conducts Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra in Nielsen and Stenhammar. Mon: Puter Maxwell Davies conducts Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Holst, Maxwell Davies and Vaughan Williams, violin soloist György Pauk. Tues: Antoni Wit conducts Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Wojciech Kitar (b1932), enlawski and Szymanowski. Oct 28: Vienna Philharmonic. Oct 31:

closing gale (089-4809 8614)

RAVARIAN STATE OPERA Staatsoper Tonight, Fri. Sun: Michael Boder conducts August Everding's production of Penderecki's 1991 opera buffa Ubu Rex. with Robert Tear and Doris Soffel. Sat and next Tues: La traviata with Tiziana Fabbriccini (Sat) and Julia Varady (Tues). Next Wed: La boheme with Miriam Gauci and Thomas Hampson (089-221316)

OTHER EVENTS

Martin Tumovsky conducts Prague Symphony Orchestra in works by Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven on Sat at Gastelg, with violin soloist Vadim Repin (089-4809 8814). Deutsches Theater has a New York Harlem Theatre production of Porgy and Bess, daily except Mon (089-5523 4360). A new production of Thomas Bernhard's play Am Ziel, directed by Martin Meitke, opens at the Kammerspiele on Sat (089-2372 1328). Repertory at Residenziheater Includes new productions of Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew, Ibsen's The

OSLO

Konserthus Tomorrow: Jerzy Semikow conducts Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Stravinsky, Mozart and Tchaikovsky, with plano soloist Christian Zacharlas (2283 3200)

Wild Duck and Chekhov's The

Cherry Orchard (089-225754)

STOCKHOLM

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STRASBOURG

Tues: Jörg-Peter Weigle conducts Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Mozart and Bruckner. with plano soloist Mikhall Rudy (8852 1845) Théatre Municipal Tonight, Fri, Sun afternoon (also Nov 2, 4, 6, 8): Friedrich Halder conducts Tobias

Richter's new Opéra du Rhin production of Rigoletto (8875 4823)

■ STUTTGART

Supplementar Tomorrow, next Thurs: Otello with Emparino Mauro. Sat: Stuttgart Ballet in choreographies by Scholz and Zanella (0711-221795) Liederhalle Sun, Mon: Hans Zender, whose new opera Don Quijote de la Mancha premiered at Steabilheeter earlier this month, conducts orchestral works by Mendelssohn and Zender

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Edward Mortimer



The Trilateral Commission. 20 years old this year, might plausibly claim to influential non-governmental, non-

profit-making organisation in the world. It brings together members of the political and business elites from north America, Europe and Japan. Its former members now in public service include President Bill Clinton and 20 senior figures in his administration; Mr Tsutomu Hata, the new Japanese foreign minister; and Mr Johan Jorgen Holst, the Norwegian foreign minister who played a vital role in brokering the recent Middle East neace accord. As networks go, that takes some beating.

The commission's three current chairmen - Count Otto Lambsdorff (former German economy minister), Mr Paul Volcker (former chairman of the US Federal Reserve) and Mr Akio Morita (founder of Sony) - are not just names on a letterhead. All three were present last weekend, and each made a personal report on the state of the economy in his region, at the commission's meeting in Barcelona - which was not even the annual plenary meeting, only a mid-term European regional one.

That meant it was essentially a gathering of the west European elite. (No central or east Europeans - not even a Greek or Turk.) One session was devoted to the host country, Spain, and another to the "Mediterranean dialogue" between Europe and the Arab world. But the short breakfast meeting on Russia was, to me, the most revealing - not so much about Russia as about western Europe. It was not very encouraging.

Mr Sergio Romano, who served as Italian ambas in Moscow during the perestroika years, gave a short talk. His main concern was to pour cold water on the notion that recent victory over parliament should be seen as a victory for either democracy or the market economy.

There would, he suggested, be "little democracy in Russia's near future". The diarchy of president and parliament would be replaced by "a diarchy of centre and periphery". There might be "more room for

Can-do versus no-do

> Europe must act and not just sneer at US foreign policy failures

some economic measures along

the lines originally tried by Gaidar (first deputy prime minister", but the army would be stronger and "if Russia is strong the countries of the Caucasus and central Asia will inevitably rally, as in the past, under Russian power" - a development which he personally considered "very positive". In the discussion that followed some details of this analysis were questioned but the general tone of elegant scepticism, mixed with nostalgia for the simple certainties of great

European security no longer has the overriding urgency it once had for US policy-makers

power politics, was maintained until Mr Richard Gardner, newly arrived US ambassador to Spain and one of the very few non-Europeans in the room, intervened. He alone ointed out that what happens in Russia is hardly a matter of indifference to the rest of the world and that, while no one can be sure of success, there are things that the west can and should be doing about it. In fact, he produced six:

 Head off nuclear proliferation, by holding former Soviet republics to, and helping them implement, their commitments under the strategic arms reduction treaties.

 Secure and where necessary decommission unsafe nuclear energy plants. Help Russia develop its oil and gas industries.

 Give technical assistance, bypassing central government as far as possible, in the skills a market economy requires.

 Set up an "enterprise fund" to finance privatisation and military conversion schemes, and help launch joint ventures. • Give "political technical assistance" with such things as elections, rule of law and an

independent judiciary. This was back-of-the-envelope stuff, neither definitive nor original. In all the areas mentioned western efforts are already being made, though perhaps not enough, and none of them is simple to implement in the chaotic circumstances now prevailing. Mr Gardner was not claiming to have all the answers, but his tone was refreshing. Here spoke the representative of a power which has not given up - which still believes there are things that

need doing in the world, and

that something can be done. Contrast that with the reported remarks of Mr Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, who that same day was telling Radio Luxembourg that the European Community was "drifting towards a free-trade cone, that is to say an English-style Europe", which in 15 years would lead to a break-up. Clearly Euro-pessimism is back with a vengeance, while the US, with a new administration, is at least trying to identify global problems and propose

solutions to them. Yet at the same time the marks made over the weekend by Mr Clinton and his secretary of state, Warren Christo-pher, make it clear that the US now has limited resources, and limited patience, to devote to European problems. The cold war is over, and European security no longer has the overriding urgency it once had, either for US policy-makers or,

still less, for the US public. To sneer at the blunders of the Clinton administration, as feels its way towards a foreign policy in a new and anarchic world, is easy enough. But it will not do Europe any good. What Europe needs is a dose of that much-derided "can do" spirit that courses through American veins. If west Europeans would only come ogether in that spirit, rather than haggling endlessly over the "national" interests of producer lobbies, they could remind themselves that the breakdown of communism is an opportunity and a challenge, as well as a threat. Who knows, they might even work out a common strategy for

dealing with it.

ocal government is leading the government back into political trouble, only months after the death of the poll tax.

This time the issue is local government reorganisation. Plans to streamline local authorities in England to save on administration costs and improve accountability threaten to be both costly and unpopular with voters.

Launched enthusiastically two years ago by Mr Michael Heseltine, then environment secretary, the objective of the independent Local Government Commission was to do away with the two-tier system of district and county councils which cover most of England outside the conurbations. Mr Heseltine thought local government would be cheaper, and easier for voters to understand, if all local services were provided by a single, all-purpose unitary authority.

Yet far from saving money, it now appears sweeping reor-ganisation along lines envis-aged by Mr Heseltine will add to the cost of local government both in the transition period and afterwards. One estimate is that it could add £100 to each council tax bill in the first year of reorganisation, 1996 - within 12 months of the next general election.

The new environment secretary. Mr John Gummer, confronted the issue last month by announcing the government might accept restructuring plans which were more expensive than the status quo. He also bolstered the review by shortening its timetable, and announcing that leaving two tiers intact would be "the exception". He apparently sees single-tier authorities as a cause worth paying for.

Besides courting trouble with voters, that judgment appalled employers, worried that they would be asked to foot the bill via business rates. Mr Howard Davies, directorgeneral of the CBL, told Mr Gummer last week that "we have always suspected that local government reorganisation could turn out to be an expensive hobby for the government". He added: "This looks to be an exercise in bureaucratic job creation across the country."

Worse for the government, Sir John Banham, the former CBI director-general appointed by Mr Heseltine to chair the Commission, takes a similar view. For him, the review is an opportunity to save money: if unitary authorities will not achieve that, he would be

Up the pole at the town hall

A review of UK local government could cost voters money - and the Tories votes, says John Authers

happy to retain the status quo. His misgivings have been strengthened by Mori polis conducted for the commission in Derbyshire, Durham and Cleveland, the first mainland counties on which proposals have been published.

These suggest the "man in the street" has little or no enthusiasm for reform. In Durham, 54 per cent favoured the status quo. In Derbyshire the status quo was the single most popular option with 39 per cent. The most popular unitary option - splitting Derbyshire into two councils - was

favoured by just 11 per cent.
"Artificial" counties created
in 1974 – for instance Cleveland and Avon, which did not conform to historical county borders - may be an exception to the trend. Mori's Cleveland poll showed only 21 per cent favouring the status quo, and a conversion into three or four unitary authorities now seems likely. Big cities lacking their own strategic authority - such as Bristol, Leicester and Nottingham - can also be expected to muster enthusiasm.

The polling evidence has led Sir John to doubt the recommendations his commission has made for new, large singletier authorities. He believes the Durham poll shows voters have been "thorougly unim-pressed" by the unitary options put to them.

Public opinion was to have driven the commission in its work, as Mr Heseltine sought to avoid the mistakes of the last reorganisation of local government in 1974. But it is the government that is ever more enthusiastic about reform.

Mr David Curry, local gov-ernment minister, said this week the government might reject proposals which would protect the status quo. He added: "If I wanted the entire reorganisation to be determined by MORI, I would have asked them to carry it out in the first place."

Policymakers even have an ideal size in mind for the single-tier authorities, according to Mr Martin Easteal, chief executive of the commission. He says the latest guidance



from Whitehall suggests ministers believe the ideal population under a new single tier authority would be between 150,000 and 250,000.

The stance taken by Mr Gummer and Mr Curry is hard to explain. Mr Gummer argues it is "clearer where responsibil-ity lies" if there is a single level of local government, adding unitary authorities "can reduce bureacracy and costs, and improve the co-ordination and quality of services.

Yet research suggests that it is far from proven that unitary authorities are cheaper and more accountable. According to Professor John Stewart of the University of Birmingham's institute of Local Government Studies, there is no evidence that the existence of two tiers of local government

confuses people over local authorities' responsibilities. Around 70 per cant of voters know that education is provided by counties - a figure not far behind those correctly identifying the prime minister

Confusion over accountability is serious only for services provided by appointed government boards, such as hospitals - thought by 50 per cent to be run by counties, and by 20 per cent to be run by districts.

Professor Stewart points out that three-tier government is the norm in larger European countries. No EC country other than Luxembourg has unitary authorities. The extra tier allows the lowest level to be small and thus highly accountable. While the average English district has a popula-tion of more than 100,000, the

largest lowest-level authorities elsewhere in Europe have pop-ulations of 28,000 in Sweden

and 17,000 in Denmark.

As for cost, re-organisation seems likely to increase council tax bills. Ernst & Young accountants appointed by the commission, have found a marked "economy of scale". While councils serving a popul lation of 50,000 or less needed more than five administrative staff per 1,000 population, only 3.5 were needed for a population of 300,000. Less than three were needed in councils with a population of more than 1m. Replacing a two-tier system with small unitary authorities could thus increase total state

There would also be transitional expenses. The Association of County Councils estimates that converting each county into three unitary authorities - roughly the option the government has in mind - would cost about £27.2m per county in new town halls, redundancy bills and other transitional costs. The Department of the Environment has left open the option that council taxpayers should foot this bill, possibly adding more than £100 per head to council tax bills.

Against this background, Mr Major's decision in July to reject a proposal from the department for authorities to "opt in" to the review process if local people were dissatisfied with the status quo looks like a mistake, An "opt in" process would have allowed a less ambitious review of council boundaries, much as the Boundary Commission periodi-cally redraws parliamentary boundaries. Unpopular "artificial" counties, such as Avon and Humberside, might then be disbanded, while Yorkshiremen could reclaim their ridings and Bristol might become a city in full control of all its services. Areas happy with the two-tier structure could carry

on undisturbed. Mr Major felt a voluntary review would encourage land – where restructuring plans have been imposed without formal consultation - to resist change; moreover, this would show lack of confidence in a policy seen as a vote-winner in the last general election.

But the new, accelerated review could lose votes. If the commission finishes its work by the end of next year, the new councils, with their higher council tax bills, should come into being in May 1996. The

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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EC research programmes far from 'failed'

Sir, Your editorial, "Innova-

tion in Europe" (October 14), reflects the same confusion and short-termism which might be about to panic some governments out of future funding for BC research and development programmes. You accuse the EC of having "squandered" money on "failed prestige projects such as. . . the Jessi microchip scheme"; yet you stress that evidence about the results of the programmes is "far from conclusive".

Large programmes such as Esprit and Jessi and, in the past, the UK's Alvey, do not "fail". Jessi is alive and well, as a quick call to the Jessi office in Munich, or to the Department of Trade and industry, would confirm. it has

been restructured and is now producing world-class results, helping some major European companies to enter into equalstatus ventures with US and Japanese companies at the forefront of microchip technology. Or why not look at Europe's success in telecommunications and systems, rather than concentrating on computers and microchips? In any case, success or failure in these programmes is, as an FT advert might remind us, "not

black and white". The outputs of research and development filter down over a long period of time. The Alvey programme is scoring technological successes now, five years since its conclusion, that probably could not have been predicted while the programme

entists involved. Esprit will certainly be able to demonstrate similar benefits, the more so because the EC has put considerable thought into nurturing the take-up of its R&D, for example through the Value and Essi programmes. In 1968 there were more than 3,000 scientists and engineers

working on Esprit projects. How can we calculate the potential damage, five years later, of not having fostered and trained our technology workforce in this way? Esprit has cost the EC well over Ecu2bn in funding, bringing us on a par with the US in terms of percentage expenditure on R&D. How can Europe hope to be taken seriously in information technology without show-

was running, even by the sciing such commitment? Of course, the individual programmes must be, and are being, continuously assessed and adjusted in focus and

implementation. Things could be made much easier for small and medium-sized enterprises, for example; perhaps more money should be spent on running the programmes and less on individual projects within them. But the vote losing potential of spending large amounts of money on our technological future is probably not a very helpful or enlightening parameter in the equation Robin Whitty,

director. Centre for Systems and Software Engineering, South Bank University, London SEI 04A

Odd comment on ITV cartels

From Mr Peter Ibbotson. Sir, In his letter of October 13, the director-general of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers opposes changes to the ITV ownership rules on the grounds that "advertisers do not want to see new cartels and monopolies develop". This is an odd observation, since the rules on airtime sales have for some time past allowed any single sales point to sell up to 25 per cent of the ITV market. At present, there are five sales points selling ITV, and there are no proposals to reduce

With respect to his concerns about regional programmes within the 15 licence areas of ITV, the Independent Television Commission has an effective armoury of powers to ensure their provision at the level and quality promised in the application process of 1991. It is our contention that the resources to sustain regional commitments (and also with growing competition the strength of the network schedule) will be best ensured by allowing further rationalisation of the system. Underpinning programme strength must surely be in the long-term interest of viewers and advertisers alike. Peter Ibbotson,

director of corporate affairs, Caritan Televisian 101 St Martin's Lane. London WC2N 4AZ

| Freight ignored in assessing Eurotunnel's prospects

From Mr Barry Worthington. Sir, I would like to correct a misconception in the Lex column regarding Eurotunnel ("Tunnel vision", October 12). As any transport student would tell you, Eurotunnel is not a glorified fixed-link version of a roll-on-roll-off ferry, nor is it a short-haul

Half the capacity is dedicated to international rail traffic, yet one does not hear of this side of the business, only of "Le Shuttle" - a reflection on whoever does the marketing for "Eurostar".

The important point is that this project will connect the UK with a growing continental

TGV system, and will revolutionise freight handling. No sane person will change a mode of transport twice when there is a direct and fast city centre to city centre service. No sane businessman will send goods via ship in the face of a simpler freight alternative that delivers door-to-door within 24

On this basis, the demands upon tunnel capacity will grow, and it is likely that a second one will be in the planning stage by the turn of the Barry Worthington.

6 Garforth Avenue, Ancoats. Manchester M4 6LA

Banking on efficiency formula

From Mr Philip Greening-Jackson.

Sir, I would ask your readers to join me in a little game. Next time you are waiting in a bank queue, work out the bank's Service Score (ss). This

is calculated by applying the following formula: $CP/CA \times CW = SS$, where CP=number of possible cashiers (le, number of win-

dows), CA=actual number of cashiers working.

CW=number of customers waiting in the queue. I would like to start the competition with NatWest Liver-

pool Fruit Exchange, At 11.20 од October 15 it scored: CP=5, CA=2

CW=13, giving a value to SS of 32.5.
This will take some beating,
but I am confident that the banks will rise to the chal-

Perhaps the banking ombudsman could be prevailed upon to donate a small prize. Philip Greening-Jackson, Sloan and Company, chartered accountants. Stanely Court, 19-23 Stanely Street.

Figuring out the Gatt

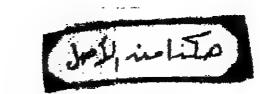
From Mr Ian Goldin. Sir. The estimate of annual gains of at least \$213bn (in 1992 dollars) which will accrue by 2002 from a successful completion of the Uruguay Round has been discussed in a recent FT. editorial ("Endgame in the Gatt". September 29) and in commentaries by David Dod-.well (World Trade News, September 30), Frances Williams (World Trade News, September 30) and Samuel Brittan ("Where Gatt's \$200bn really

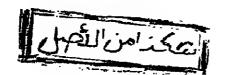
comes from". October 4).
Your readers may be for given for finding it difficult to identify the source of these numbers. The one citation that has been given (September 30) was erroneous as it referred to an earlier publication I coauthored rather than the relevant recently released

volume. The book which summarises the results of the four-year modelling collaboration between the OECD Development Centre and the World Bank is published jointly by OECD and the World Bank under the title, Trade Liberalis-ation: Global Economic Implications, by Ian Goldin, Odin Knudsen and Dominique van der Mensbrugghe. lan Goldin,

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senior economist World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW. Washington, DC 20433;





FINANCIAL TIMES

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Wednesday October 20 1993

The question for Mr Clarke

THE FIRST unified Budget, due in November, is also Mr Kenneth Clarke's first Budget. The chancellor must stamp his mark on economic strategy.

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The biggest question he faces is whether further fiscal adjustments are required, beyond those announced by Mr Norman Lamont last March. The former chancellor introduced a fiscal "wedge", which is set to raise £6.7bn (1 per cent of gross domestic product) in 1994-95 and £10.3bn in 1995-96. Even so the public sector borrowing requirement would, according to the Treasury's forecasts, only decline from 9 per cent of GDP (excluding privatisation proceeds) this year to the still high level of 4 per cent

The "green budget" put forward yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in collaboration with Goldman Sachs indicates that further action is probably needed. Indeed, it notes that on some measures the present fiscal position is worse than it has been in peacetime: the general government "pri-mary" deficit - the deficit less net interest - will peak at close to 6 per cent of GDP; the "real" Budget deficit - the deficit adjusted for inflation - is higher still; and the ratio of public debt to GDP is set to double in half a decade.

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There are two gleams of light in this otherwise sombre picture: the first is that the inflation of the 1970s and the fiscal surpluses of the late 1980s brought the ratio of gross public sector debt to GDP to the exceptionally low level of 35 per cent in the early 1990s, from over 80 per cent 20 years before. The second is that the economy is in recovery, which should allow it several years of above-trend

The authors of the green budget argue that if the economy were to recover at 3 per cent a year, while public spending were to grow at 2 per cent in real terms (which is what happened at a comparable stage of the last cycle), the PSBR could fall to 8.6 per cent of GDP by 1997-98. Even this would not be low enough to stabilise the ratio of public sector debt to GDP, forecast to be just over 50 per cent at that rates.

fall within the government's target of 1-4 per cent. But the required fiscal adjustment would be modest, no more than about 1 per cent of GDP.

It would be possible to argue for a higher peak ratio of debt to GDP. But this would be risky, since the primary surplus ulti-mately required to stabilise the ratio of public debt to GDP increases with that ratio whenever the real interest rate exceeds the real growth of the economy.

The most important objection to doing nothing more is that 3 per cent economic growth, while pos-sible, is far from certain. If things were to go wrong, the government could find itself under severe pressure to raise taxes in the run-up to the next election.

Some argue that further fiscal adjustment would itself delay recovery and so make the fiscal position still worse in the medium term. That would be a powerful argument if it were impossible or unwise to use monetary policy to offset fiscal tightening.

Early action on the fiscal position, offset by monetary loosening, might even make it easier to sus-tain the desired rate of growth The reason for the deterioration in the fiscal position was the extraordinary tightness of monetary policy during the period of ERM membership. This needed to be rebalanced. To an extent, it has been. But the rebalancing may have to go further if growth is to be sustained without an explosive increase in the external deficit. A controlled depreciation now, when the economy has plenty of slack, would be far better than an uncontrollable one later.

Taking no further fiscal action might work out, but only if everything were to turn out well. Only a foolhardy chancellor would bet on that. The probability is that a further fiscal adjustment will be required. Politics suggest the adjustment should come sconer rather than later. Economics suggest there is no great merit in delay. Mr Clarke should go for

talian industry is bothered about its image these days, and with good reason. The casual visitor need only switch on the TV or pick up a

newspaper to be confronted by a public relations disaster of the first magnitude: yet more executive magnitude: yet more executive arrests and suicides, yet more Mafla killings, yet more strikes.

Oddly enough, though, Italian industry is in some ways doing rather well. This year, Italy is headed for its first trade surplus since the war. In the first six months, exports were up nearly 20

months, exports were up nearly 20 per cent. The severe domestic recession means profits are down; but the Italian stock market - for what it is worth - has been one of Europe's star performers this year. Part of the paradox is easily

explained. Amid the general mayhem of the corruption scandal which has enveloped business and government, Italian employers have enjoyed one remarkable piece of luck. For decades, they had been obliged to raise wage rates in line with inflation - the so-called scala mobile system. In July of last year, the scala mobile was abolished. Two months later, Italy left the European exchange rate mechanism and the lira was devalued by more than 20 per cent.

But it was Italy's membership of the ERM which had caused the scala mobile to be abolished in the first place. The lethal combination of rising wages and a fixed currency gave employers the ammunition to lemonstrate that the old system was unsustainable. But just as that burden was removed, so too was the currency straitjacket. Italian industry is thus enjoying the best of both

Mr Giorgio Garuzzo, chief operations officer of Fiat, says: "Between 1987 and 1991, the cost of labour in Italy went up by 9-10 per cent a year, nearly twice the rate of France or Germany. Since the lira was not devaluing, we lost 20 or 30 percentage points of competitiveness in that period. So we fought against the scala mobile, and we won. Then devaluation came, and overnight we were back to the eco-nomics of 1987. We had regained all the ground we'd lost."

The economic situation is thus in one sense surprisingly benign. As befits a country whose prime minister, Mr Carlo Clampi, is a former governor of the central bank, inflation is running at a mere 4.3 per cent, more than a full percentage point down from a year ago despite devaluation. In the state-owned industries, wage rises are running at practically zero. How long this will all last is another matter. As a senior Italian official remarks; "The level of competitiveness of Italian goods is absolutely exceptional at present. This is another way of saying the lira is undervalued."

Tony Jackson explains why, behind the bribery scandals and strikes, Italian industry is doing rather well

No tragedy despite dramatics

for not taking the headlines at face value. Mr Innocenzo Cipoletta, director general of the employers federation, Confindustria, says: "In a Latin country like Italy, changes are always dramatic. Whenever you

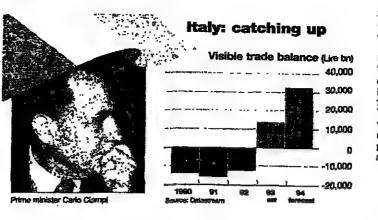
change, you are in crisis."

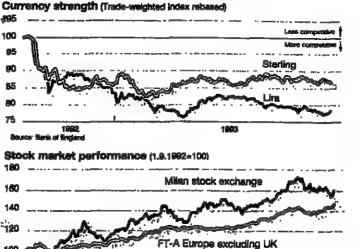
And, he argues, Italy has been here before. "In the 1970s, we had inflation of 20 per cent, huge bal-ance of payments deficits, an IMF loan, a political crisis and a dra-matic rise in terrorism. Nobody would have given a lira for our chances." In the event, of course, the 1980s proved a boom time for Italian capitalism, for which it is only now paying the price.

This argument is part of a wider thesis, which says the Italian economy has a persistent habit of lagging behind the rest of Europe and then catching up in bursts. The catch-up phases, such as the late 1960s and most of the 1980s, are euphoric. The economy is now in one of the corresponding downswings, characterised by deep gloom and - as Mr Cipoletta puts it. the conviction that Italy is merely the most advanced of the develop-

At the level of individual industries, the process of lag and catch-up is neatly illustrated by Fiat. Conventional wisdom says that if Europe has one carmaker too many, Fiat - with its unproductive plant and lacklustre models - could well be it. But Flat's new plant at Melfi, in the lunar landscape of Basilicata in southern Italy, is startlingly modern. Its layout is revolutionary, its level of automation extreme. Its claimed productivity -79 vehicles per worker per year - is very nearly the highest in the world. Its remote site was chosen partly because the local workforce had no previous knowledge of the car industry. The oldest man in the

plant, the works director, is just 35. Italy is catching up in another sense. For many decades, the sconomy has been cursed with an enormous and inefficient state-owned industrial sector. Great chunks of it, from banking to steel, are now to be privatised. The process is contentious, since privatisation is a potential weapon against corruption and therefore resisted by the old guard.





But it seems unlikely that Italy can resist the European privatisation vogue: and in any case, the hugely indebted Italian state badly needs

This is not to deny that the private sector has a stiff job ahead of it. For a start, the corruption scandal - known locally as Tangentopoli ("Bribe Cities") - has done serious harm, even if some industrialists are inclined to shrug it off. The damage, says Mr Cipoletta, has been enormous. Or perhaps not, according to a senior colleague at Confindustria, Mr Rosolino Orlando. "Companies weren't he says, "The process of doing busi-

involved in Tangentopoli," Mr Orlando says. "People were. If you want to buy an Italian machine tool or Italian textiles, you don't think about Tangentopoli. You don't buy images, you buy products. You buy

Behind this inconsistency is a resentful feeling among many industrialists that they were in some sense victims of the political system. The ambivalence is well expressed by Mr Garuzzo of Fiat, who at one point had a warrant out for his arrest over Fiat's involvement. "This is a welcome process,"

ness with the state must be transparent. If the scandals are the price of righting the situation, the scandals are welcome. But if the scale of it was not known, its existence was common knowledge. So perhaps we should clean our laundry less pub-

Even without the corruption scandal, the image problem remains. Take, for instance, labour relations. In recent months there has been a recurrence of that old Italian bugbear, the rail strike. There has also been a particularly nasty conflict at a state-owned chemical plant at Crotone, in Italy's deep south.

Employers in the private sector take a predictably hard line on this. "We have to pass through a period of strikes over the next year," says Mr Cipoletta of Confindustria. "If not, you can't change anything. You can't get rid of 50,000 teachers without causing tension in the educational system. The rail strike going on at present is a good

s for the Crotone dispute, employers say, this is a typical instance of managerial Incompetence in state-run industries. For northern managers, there is a further sub-text: Crotone is in the south, so what else can you

This is a reminder of yet another persistent problem: the regional tensions within the Italian state. In the wealthy regions of the indus-trial north, there is deep resentment over the cost of propping up the impoverished south. But it is one thing for northern industrialists to argue - as they do - that the south should forget industry and concentrate on tourism and agriculture. It is another to go along with more extreme talk of separatism, which from a business viewpoint is a prescription for chaos.

Dr Roberto Tronchetti Provera vice-chairman of the Lombard employers' federation, based in Milan, says: "Separatism would solve nothing. Perhaps we would pay less taxes, but we need the southern market. Our members are working not just in the European single market but in the domestic market. We need rules to allow them to operate properly within it."

But however formidable the list of problems, the case for optimism remains. None of the issues is new; the point is that they are all being addressed at once. The process is both painful and humiliating. But one cannot quite dismiss Dr Tronchetti Provera when he claims: 'Italian companies will come out of this period much stronger than before. Not in the near future, but in the medium term, Italy will be a

Bhutto revisited

MS BENAZIR BHUTTO'S first who is to be elected separately term as Pakistan's prime minister next month, all must now be from 1988 to 1990 was a catalogue of disasters born of her own inexperience and of hostility on the part of the country's political and military establishments. The sec-ond chance that began yesterday may therefore not seem a cause for unalloyed rejoicing. There are. however, reasons to suppose that this time could be different, and that Pakistan is not quite the same place that she attempted to

rule five years ago. The first is that the Pakistani elite may have learnt something from the turmoil the country has just been through. After a year of wrangling between opposition. government and president, Pakistan this month managed to stage something like a free and fair general election. Although the result was a hung parliament, Ms Bhutto's mandate now seems clear enough, thanks to support from small parties. Her main opponent, Mr Nawaz Sharif, has also promised to respect the result. The army, which with the then president brought Ms Bhutto down last time, now seems prepared to play a more neutral role. And while the danger persists of destabilising

aware that such battles only lead up a blind alley.

Second, Ms Bhutto herself ought this time to be in a stronger posi-tion both to diagnose her country's political and economic ills and to treat them, largely thanks to the remarkable interim premiership of her immediate prede cessor, Mr Moeen Qureshi. During barely three months in office, Mr Qureshi, spurred on by a foreign exchange crisis, set about tackling the networks of political and financial patronage that lie at the heart of Pakistan's malaise - vowing to tax the country's farmers, for example, and empowering state-owned banks to redeem bad loans they had been forced to make to politicians and powerful

The economic emergency persists and Ms Bhutto has promised to continue with reforms needed to qualify for a three-year programme of International Monetary Fund loans, as well as to try to end Pakistan's international isolation. None of this will be easy, least of all in a fragile coalition government. But at least Ms Bhutto now knows what she has constitutional disputes between to do, and has a freer hand than the government and the president, she had before to do it.

Opting out from the welfare state



The welfare state is in trouble, in the UK as elsewhere. As the public cost of pensions, education and health inexorably outpaces tax receipts. PERSONAL the government is VIEW finding it increas-

ingly difficult to honour its commitments to the elderly, the young, and the ill. And in spite of the rise in welfare spending, the disparity between rich and poor has widened over the past

Under the current system of universal benefits large amounts are spent on people who are already well off. It is widely believed that the only alternative is to channel welfare state services to the poor through means tests, taxes on pensions, and the like. This would reduce poor people's incentive to become self-reliant and erode the middle class's political support for the welfare state

There is, however, another alternative, one that reduces the government's welfare state spending with-

in DC

their finances.

department

out making the poor or the affluent worse. It is my welfare opt-out programme, which gives people the option of relinquishing their entitlements to certain publicly provided welfare state services in return for a rebate. The size of the rebate would depend on the cost of the relinquished entitlements. The average per capita cost would be com-puted for different groups of people, depending on their income, age, sex, marital status, and other determinants of welfare state demands. This rebate would take the form

of a claim against the government nounting to 70 per cent of the cost of the relinquished entitlements, for each group of people. Where the cost accrues in the future (such as pensions for people currently of working age), the claim would take the form of government bonds with an average maturity commensurate with the costs; where the costs accrue at present (such as education for people with school-aged children), it would amount to an Immediate tax reduction. Of course. the option would have to be tied to compulsory insurance against sick-ness, disability, and old age.

That would leave 30 per cent of the funds to cover the "deadweight loss" arising because people consuming few services are more likely to choose the opt-out option. By specifying the characteristics of each opt-out group sufficiently nar-rowly, the deadweight loss could be reduced below 30 per cent of the available funds, leaving a surplus to

The programme would give the right incentive to choose between public and private services

improve the state-provided services. To get a rough indication of how this programme would work, observe that over the past decade, the government's national insurance spending (excluding unemployment benefits) was about 8.2 ner cent of UK gross domestic product minus total central government revenue. Thus people who relinquished their entitlement to publicly provided retirement pensions

OBSERVER

and sickness and invalidity benefits would qualify for a rebate amounting to about 5.7 per cent of their income, on average. By the same calculation, people who gave up their National Health Service entitlement would get a 5.3 per cent income increase; and those not taking advantage of publicly provided education would receive a 4.6 per cent rise in income.

Some say that allowing people to leave the welfare state system would turn it into a poverty programme. But this argument does not apply here. There would be no incentive for the affluent to opt out while the poor stay in. Those con-suming few welfare state services would receive a small rebate and thus have a small incentive to opt out. And since the rebate is tied to the cost of the state-provided services those who opt out would have no incentive to vote for a run-down of the state sector.
The welfare opt-out programme

would give people the right incentive for choosing between public and private provision of welfare state services. The people who opt out would be the ones whose particquately through private providers. Given the enormous diversity of needs and the inevitable standardisation of publicly provided services, it is inevitable that such people should exist. So the public and private welfare state systems would exist side by side, each providing services in which they have a comparative advantage. The resulting competition would give both an incentive to become more efficient.

ular needs could be met more ade-

Here is a way for the government to reduce its spending without hurting anyone. The reduction in distortional tax-and-transfer arrangements among middle class groups should gradually generate enough savings to the government through taxes from new private welfare state providers - to permit improved state provision.

Dennis J. Snower

The author is professor of economics, Birkbeck College, University of London, and programme director, Centre for Economic Policy Research

Credit card war

THE UK credit card market is rates as well as a wider variety of notting up. Vauxhall's launch yesterday of credit cards offering discounts on the purchase of its cars and comparatively low interest rates is the biggest threat so far to a business traditionally dominated by clearing banks. Vauxhall clearly means to make an impact. A similar card launched in the US by General Motors, its parent, has attracted 8m customers in just

over a year. Moreover, Vauxhall is not on its own. Financial services group Save & Prosper recently introduced a card with an interest rate of 14.6 per cent, much less than the 23 per cent average. MBNA, a US bank, is planning to base its European credit card operations in the UK. Other non-financial companies - with Ford, General Electric and American Telephone & relegraph touted as likely candidates - are expected to follow

Vauxhall's lead. This process promises advantages for both new entrants and consumers. For a company like Vauxhall, a credit card could be a powerful tool to build brand loyalty. Users will have an incentive to buy Vauxhall cars rather than

services. While credit card users have not been badly served by the clearing banks, there have been complaints. Chief among these are the introduction of annual credit card fees in the past few years and a switch to charging interest from the date of the transaction instead of the date of the statement. To this is added the constant gripe that interest rates are much higher than base rates.

Consumers themselves are partly to blame for not shopping around more vigorously. Research shows that most do not know what interest charge they pay. But banks and building societies are also to blame in that they have generally failed to differentiate their services, so offering consumers little opportunity to exercise choice. This in turn largely

reflects lack of initiative. There is, however, one anti-competitive practice which could use fully be swept away: Visa and Mastercard, the dominant credit card networks, generally do not admit non-banks to their club. Vauxhall has avoided this restriction by using the services of HFC Bank. But this is cumbersome. If the market is to develop to its full For customers, stiffer competition should bring lower interest Down and out of glass, soaring ceilings and enormous room sizes".

No way station

Cost overruns on the World Bank's headquarters building in Washington - some \$100m above the original \$186m - do not seem happiest in the very thick of things. to have made the bank one wit more modest when it comes to So what on earth is he doing doling out advice to third world governments on how to handle

Some of the staff seem to be equally challenged in the humility Take Armeane Choksi, vice-president for human resources and development operations policy leading investment banks? The 52-year-old former Fed chief. who, with his wife, is selling

the Chevy Chase home to move into one they are now having A full-page colour ad in Washingtonian magazine describes in painful detail the hearthreak

involved in moving house. "She will miss their long private drive, the bright and open floor plan and the wonderful decks overlooking the majestic trees." "He'll remember the luxurious

master suite complete with Jacuzzi, skylight, separate shower, and circular windows, the grand first floor library with fireplace, and the impressive entry foyer. They'll both miss the dumbwaiter which carries groceries direct into the kitchen!

The ad also says that this haxurious dwelling boasts "walls

■ Pugnacious Gerald Corrigan, who captained the New York Fed through many a market crisis, is

emerging chez Goldman Sachs to run "special projects", head the bank's group of outside advisers and gladhand important clients - guaranteeing himself everything, in fact, except proximity to the epicentre of one of Wall Street's

who will no doubt be more than generously remunerated, sees his position as "flexible but highly substantive".

Does that mean he is being lined

up as a future chairman? He laughs off the suggestion, as does Goldman chairman Stephen Friedman, who is nevertheless expecting his new recruit to view this as "home for his career, not a way station". However special the deal,

meanwhile, Corrigan does not come in as one of the fabled general partners, who even in 1991, before Wall Street's current bonanza started, had a share in profits reckoned to run to \$1.15bn. Eyeing the long list of partners

to which his name will not be

unconvincingly, to be "just a

appended Corrigan claims, a trifle

footnote".

Franc forte

■ Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, proudly unveiled a new series of banknotes yesterday, starting with a FFr50 bill. Unsurprisingly, he had a ready reply to the query that now might seem an undiplomatic moment to signal such a national, as opposed to European, monetary manoeuvre,

The new notes, needles to say, complement European monetary union, he explained, reflecting "a convergence" with Dutch and German designs, Indeed, it would

all facilitate the design of an eventual Ecu note, he went on. The new FFr50 note displays

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator and writer. It also has no less than four new anti-forgery devices, three of which incorporate images taken from the aviator's writings.

"This is our latest move in the endless technological race with counterfeiters," Trichet boasted. If only exchange rate policy were as simple as banknotes. Trichet was also at pains to point out the mendacity of press suggestions that the French government is weakening in its determination to keep the franc strong. But that was an area of forgery over which he ruefully admitted to having no control.

Bodyguard

■ Keeping up with the Joneses.

continued. For a mere \$45,000 (you supply the car) you can have your very own "personal security vehicle" The O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhart

Armoring Company, an Ohio-based manufacturer of armoured limousines for VIPs, is offering wraparound lightweight composite armour and plastic-reinforced glass windows for the man in the street worried about car robberies and random violence.

The company says its armour will stop bullets from .38 calibre and 9mm handguns and machine pistols - standard street-gear for your average US criminal. Optional add-ons include tyres that keep working when riddled with bullets and an explosion-proof fuel tank. And the joy of it all is that you do not need to modify the engine, brakes or suspension because the weight is kept down

by not reinforcing the floor or roof.

Doesn't that leave the driver vulnerable? Not at all: "You only need do the roof to stop spipers up high and the floor from blasts underneath. Those have not been a problem here, yet," says a spokesman.

Wrong-footed

Could it be that one of the problems with British soccer is that the team has not been threatened with a rocket for bad performance? In Iraq they do things differently. When the team lost the first game of this week's Asian World Cup round-robin qualifier in Oatar 2-3 to North Korea, the cabinet, chaired by Saddam Hussein's son Uday, immediately sacked the team coaches and warned four players. The coaches, said an official statement, would be "passed to an investigation commission" - Which, coming from the Iraqi government, has an infinitely more sinister ring than say, an FA tribunal Last night the Iraois were due to take on South Korea. Trembling. probably.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Wednesday October 20 1993



Taiwan seeks new talks over BAe aircraft deal

By Dennis Englarth and Daniel Green in Taipei

TAIWAN Aerospace Corporation is seeking a fresh start to negotiations with British Aerospace on their troubled and long drawnout efforts to set up a joint ven-

ture to manufacture regional jets. "Under the structure of the original initialled agreement, there is no way for the two sides to break through their impasse. The best way would be to start new talks," Mr George Liu, senior vice-president and TAC spokesman, said vesterday.

The Taiwan side will also press its demand for a legal commitment from BAe to co-develop an advanced two-engine passenger jet when talks between TAC and Mr John Cahill, BAe chairman, begin today.

Mr Cahill is leading a team of

BAe technical and financial spe-cialists seeking to salvage the loint venture proposal which is an integral part of the company's overall restructuring and recov-

AN ADVANCED computer sys-

tem, based on technology devel-oped in Europe and paid for by

the European Community's principal information technology

research programme, will be launched today by iCL.

The system, a parallel processor called "Goldrush", is one of

the first examples of the commer-

cial exploitation of research car-

ried out under the Alvey and

Esprit programmes.
The UK Alvey initiative absorbed £350m of public funds between 1983 and 1989, and the

European Community's Esprit initiative, part of the EC's Frame-

work programme, is currently budgeted at Ecu2.2bn (\$2.57bn) a

Collapse of the Taiwanese

By Alan Cane

joint-venture project could lead to some 3,000 job losses at BAe's Woodford plant, near Manchester, if the UK group decides it has no alternative but to halt its regional jet activities.

The company, however, has indicated in recent days it could continue regional jet activities in the UK even if the Taiwan deal fell through. But many aerospace industry analysts believe the future of these operations would be severely compromised if Mr Cahill fails in his effort to revive

the joint venture proposal.

Mr Cahill's team yesterday
made contact with Mr David Howell, chairman of the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee who also arrived in Taipei last night. Mr Richard Needham, the UK trade minister, is due to arrive today with a delegation of UK

Mr Cahill and Mr Earle Hou. TAC chairman, are expected to meet today to see if discussions Talks last month collapsed

after TAC called on BAe to pro-

ICL launches computer based

and Japan in high technology, but both have been criticised for

absorbing large sums of money

while generating little of com-

ICL, owned by Fujitsu of Japan

but based in the UK, has spent

\$42m of its own money to develop parallel processing technology to a commercial level. Competitors

include Tandem Computers and International Business Machines.

Goldrush will enable ICL to bid

for data processing contracts for airlines and banks which involve

very large amounts of data and high processing rates - contracts

Mr Martin Bangemann, the EC

commissioner for industrial

affairs, will attend the system's

traditionally won by IBM.

on EC research initiative

mercial value.

both of the US.

vide a detailed written commitment to co-develop an advanced two-engine "RJX" regional pas-senger jet, in addition to the existing RJ aircraft based on the BAe 146 four-engine regional airliner. Such a project could entail research and development costs of about £1bn.(\$1.5bn)

BAe is also seeking assurances that the TAC board and manage-ment will be strengthened. Mr Denny Ko, who signed the original agreement with BAe, resigned this month as president. Mr Hou has also indicated he wants to resign as chairman.

Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs renewed its support for TAC to continue talks with BAe in a written statement yesterday: The government believes this project will be beneficial in upgrading our aerospace industry. Therefore, we have provided proper assistance and necessary support. However, at present, the two sides still have a gap in understanding and need to continue to seek consensus."

Bull of France and Siemens of Germany before the British com-

pany was acquired by Fujitsu in 1990. Neither Bull nor Siemens

have taken up their rights to the

Mr Peter Bonfield, ICL chair-

man and chief executive, said yesterday that Fujitsu would not

have free access to the Goldrush

technology. He hoped that the

computer could be sold to other

manufacturers, including Fujitsu,

to be marketed as part of their

Parallel processing, where many small computers work together to process a problem,

will eventually replace conven-

tional data processing methods,

Goldrush is designed to process many thousands of transactions

a second as part of a larger com-

own product range.

Boeing rival, Page 7

strikers bring Paris airports to standstill

Air France

By John Ridding in Paris

STRIKING Air France workers brought chaos to the two main airports in Paris yesterday, blocking runways and forcing flights to be cancelled for much of the afternoon. The protests are the most seri-

ous to be launched against the lossmaking airline's recovery plan, which was announced last month. The plan involves the loss of 4,000 jobs by the end of next year and the implementa-tion of economy measures, including reduced overtime pay. Both Charles De Gaulle and Orly airports were paralysed by the protests, although Orly was reopened in the afternoon after three hours. However, Aeroports de Paris, the airport authority, said the situation remained very difficult at Orly because of the backlog of disrupted flights, while Charles De Gaulle

remained closed. Air France said it was unclear what the situation would be today. But he said it was likely that flights serving destinations in Europe, Turkey and Israel would be cancelled. Air France said that between five and 10 long-hanl flights were expected to operate from Charles De

Gazille tomorrow. Mr Bernard Attali, Air France chairman, condemned the pro-tests, spearheaded by two union federations, Force Ouvriere and the leftwing Confédération du Travail. He said the cancelled flights yesterday would cost the airline about FFr70m (\$12.4m).

Mr Attali has argued that the recovery plan is the only way to ensure the survival of Air France, which lost FFr3.8bn in the first half of the year. He said the protests would not affect the implementation of the plan and that involuntary redundancies would be kept to a minimum.

"One can understand the worries of our personnel, but nothing can excuse the damage to the company," Mr Attali said in a statement to employees. "These actions will weaken the company puter network. Machines will and deal it a serious blow at the cost from £750,000 to £10m each.

THE LEX COLUMN SB's dilute tonic

SmithKline Beecham

Share price relative to the

FT-A All-Share Index

SmithKline Beecham has not shared in the rehabilitation of other pharmaceuticals companies this autumn. While Glaxo and Wellcome have risen by around 30 per cent from depths reached during the summer, and most US drugs companies have rallied by a lesser amount, SB has continued to languish. The company suffered less on the downswing by dint of its broad spread of business, so some under-performance might be expected. But SB cannot afford to match the inducement of rapid dividend growth now

being promised by some of its rivals. True, the company finished the third quarter with net cash for the first time since the transatlantic merger in 1989. It now faces a direct choice between accumulating cash. increasing investment or raising the pay-out to shareholders. With a spread of business ranging from animal health to fizzy drinks, SB has plenty of opportunities for incremental investment. As long as the outlook for the pharmaceuticals industry remains clouded, it might also like the chance to build a Glaxo-style cash cushion against hard times.

If so, dividend growth is unlikely to outstrip earnings by much. Since SB has only recently finished the cost-cutting associated with its merger, earnings growth stands squarely on the performance of the prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines business. There have been recent disappointments on both fronts, especially the reluctance of the US regulator to approve an OTC version of Tagamet, the ulcer drug which loses US patent protection in May. SB will need to demonstrate all its marketing flair and muscle if it is to shine through the difficult year shead.

Had the government really been under funding pressure, it would surely have proceeded with its auction in November regardless of the Budget. The sale would have been out of the way almost a week before Budget day. So the decision not to go ahead probably reflects a large degree of funding comfort, although the Bank might also have legitimate scruples about launch-ing a large sale just before a Budget that is widely expected to include an interest rate cut.

For the time being, it matters little if recovery does not reduce the PSBR much below the original Treasury forecast of £50bn. October's auction will bring glit sales in the current year FT-SE Index: 3129.6 (-8.0)

to some £40bn. The authorities are so far ahead of the actual funding need that they can afford to take a breather. Once again they are spared the need for a long-dated issue.

The strength of long-dated gilts probably owes as much to shortage of supply as to a conviction that inflation is permanently under control. Similarly, short gilts are buoyed by expectations of lower base rates, which, incidentally, should ensure the suc-cess of this month's auction. The market's benign mood could change if the chancellor pitches his budget message wrong. Balancing fiscal tightening with interest rate cuts is no easy matter when underlying inflation may be pushing on its 4 per cent ceiling next spring. A test of Mr Clarke's success may be whether the Bank feels able to slip in another auction between the Budget and Christmas.

Wolselev

Wolseley is a modest company with little to be modest about. Despite setbacks in California and sticky progress in France, Woiseley still succeeded in lifting earnings per share by 28 per cent last year. Good stock con-trol, a strong balance sheet and promising acquisitions leave it well placed for further growth. Although a 6 per cent dividend increase looks meagre against earnings growth, its 2.5 times cover should enable the company to sustain a progressive pay-out policy, which is more than can be said for many in the building materials sector.

The main irritation, though, concerns Wolseley's recent penchant for issuing paper. The company has effectively staged a one-for-four rights

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS AS A MATTER OF RECORD ONLY

issue on the quiet by seeping shares into the market through placings. Even here, though, it can perhaps be excused. Reasonably enough, Wolseley argues acquisitive growth should be financed with equity and organic growth with cash. So far, at least, the new shares have been used to buy earnings-enhancing assets.

Nevertheless, having outperformed the sector by more than 200 per cent since the start of 1990, Wolseley's shares would appear to have little room for more. Since it never plumbed the depths in recession, Wolseley's earnings recovery may also be less striking than that of its more reckless peers. Building materials stocks are also unlikely to be too frisky ahead of the Budget. The fear is the Chancellor may bear down heavily on local government and housing spending.

Lonrho

Lonrho-gazers were given plenty to ponder in yesterday's Delphic board-room manoeuvres. The election of two non-executives at Mr Dieter Bock's suggestion was balanced by the oddlysymmetrical and simultaneous elevation of two other men, presumably at Mr Tiny Rowland's behest. The compromise prevents a messy public bat-tle for control which neither Mr Bock nor other shareholders seem to want and which Mr Rowland would almost certainly have lost. Perhaps Mr Rowland hopes that the move will preserve his voting advantage on the board, helping him prevent a shake-out of executive directors. If so, it was bought at a heavy price. The new non-executive board members will doubtless wish to continue the reform of Lonrho, so at best Mr Rowland seems to be fighting a doughty, if forlors, rearguard action.

Skirmishing will now move on to detailed areas such as the formation of audit and remuneration committees and the contentious issue of board membership. Sparks will probably continue to fly, though given that institutional investors seem to support Mr Bock's initiatives, he may be expected to make further progress. Presumably the aim is to tidy up the company sufficiently for the market to accept a rights Issue - which is probably Lonrho's only way forward. The company is not generating significant amounts of cash. If it is to grow, disposals are only a limited option. Higher gearing would only reawaken the fears which Mr Bock's reforms are designed to quell.

Makesar e domar

Brance in Age.

Per 17 1812 (1918)

launch in London today. The research on which Gold-The two programmes were started as a response to fears that Europe was falling behind the US ICL in collaboration with Groupe

Continued from Page 1

his colleagues' views when fram-ing the November Budget.

Mr Clarke will be obliged to raise at least an extra £3bn in revenue despite the opposition of several rightwing colleagues.
Some believe that if the economic outlook improves over the next few weeks the figure could be closer to £5bn or £6bn, with a I percentage point cut in interest rates to "sweeten" the package. Several cabinet ministers.

including Mr Michael Heseltine, trade and industry secretary, are thought to favour restrictions on mortgage interest relief, perhaps limiting it to 15 per cent. Others believe personal income tax allowances should be restricted to the 20p rate, which might be combined with a modest exten-sion of value added tax.

aspects of derivatives - that they can be used to hedge risks and allow banks and companies more flexibility in managing their assets and liabilities.

But it warns that the collapse of a leading market participant or extreme market turbulence could set off a "chain reaction", whereby problems in the deriva-tives markets could prompt a liquidity crisis in the cash markets and endanger the whole financial system.

"Such developments can only

the ways in which such instruments can be deployed, but also of the risks attached to using

them," the Bundesbank says. The central bank warns against "fair-weather" risk and control mechanisms for derivatives business. And it suggests ways of mitigating the risks.

Market participants should systems, and disclosure require ments should be improved so much of such business "off balance-sheet", the Bundesbank

Major hints at tax rise | Derivatives warning

FT WORLD WEATHER

Downing Street issued only a brief statement saying that Mr Clarks would "take into account"

But ministers said the chancellor - with the support of some cabinet ministers - had left no doubt that he was planning to add to the £7bn package of tax increases already pencilled in for

Most senior ministers believe

Continued from Page 1

be avoided if all market partici-

improve their risk recognition that banks can no longer hide

45

Europe today

affect north-west Europe. A frontal system associated with the depression will cross the British Isles with cloud and rain. In the wake of the front, cold and unstable air will spread over the UK bringing showers which will be mixed with sleet and hall over the Highlands later. Over parts of central Europe, high pressure will still produce tranquil though cool conditions zone over the Alps extending to the Black Sea will cause mainly overcast skies with some showers, especially in the Alps. Southern Europe will be mostly sunny and warm, but Spain and the Balearic Isles will have scatttered clouds.

Five-day forecast

High pressure will build again over northern UK and will extend its influence toward the Baltic States. As a result, parts of north and north-west Europe will have a lot of sunshine. Along the north side of the high, milder and more moist air will arrive in Scandinavia. resulting in significantly higher temperatures. Southern Europe, especially Italy and southern France, will have a lot of rain as a result of lingering low pressure areas.



Multi-Million Pound Buy-Out

111 pubs

from

Bass Taverns

Equity led by

NatWest Ventures

Equity jointly underwritten by NatWest Ventures

Murray Ventures PLC Debt provided by

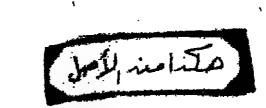
Barclays Bank PLC Birmingham

> Management advised by **Ernst & Young**

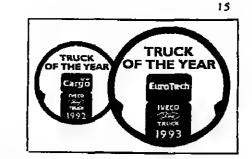


NATWEST VENTURES

Nat West Markets



Wednesday October 20 1993 © THE FINANCIAL TIMES LIMITED 1993



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New drugs spur SmithKline Beecham

SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American health-SmithKline Beecham, the Anglo-American health-care company, has reported a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the months ending September 30 to £291m. The results were helped by curren-cies, a strong performance from the clinical labora-tories operations and recently-launched pharmaceuticals. Page 22 Pfizer and American Cyanamid, two of the biggest US drugs companies, announced substantial staff cuts in the face of pricing pressures and the threat of pending US healthcare reform. Page 18

Bouygues warns of fall

Bouygues, the world's largest construction group, warned of a fall in 1993 net profits. The French company announced a 27 per cent fall in net profits to FFr79m (\$132.6m) in the first half of the year.

Puzzie over Sculley

Why should John Sculley, former chairman of Apple Computer who could have had a pick of lobs in digital interactive media, choose Spectrum Information Technologies, a \$100m revenue company that has lost money for the past five years?
Page 17

Kaufhof presented to US

Today Mr Jens Odewald, chief executive of Kaufhof Holding, the German retail group, launches pre-sentations to investment institutions in New York and Boston, timed to coincide with the launch of Kaufhof's sponsored American Depository Receipt (ADR) programme for its shares, Page 20

Cheung Kong takes Allied stake

Mr Li Ka-shing's Chaung Kong Holdings has acquired a 15 per cent stake in Hong Kong-listed Alied Group, just one month after a government inspector listed altegations of corporate misfea-sance by Altied's former management. Page 20

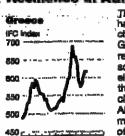
Virtuality opens at premium The first day's trading of ahares in the newly-

Poated Virtuality Group saw the price hitting 315p at one point, a substantial premium to the placing price of 170p. Other companies about to come to market include CentreGold, the publisher and distributor of video games, and Cantab Pharmsceuti-cals; the bio-technology group, which said its placing was fully subscribed. Page 22

McKechnie controls pay off

McKechnie, the international plastics and metal components group, raised pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to 224.5m (\$36.5m) in the year to July 31. The group was helped by tight cost controls. Page 23

Resilience in Athens



The Athens stock market has weathered last week's change of government in Greece with unexpected resilience. After plunging some 14 per cent after the election was announced, the general index has climbed back steadily. Although it has failed to natch its midsummer peal of 955, it is still 28 per cent up from the start of

Market Statistics

	Base lending rates
	Bencomunk Gowl bornds
ı	FT-A Indices
	FT-A world indices Beak
1	FT fixed interest indices
	FT/ASMA Int bond sec
	Financiel futures
I	Foreign concharges
	London recent issues

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20 Independent Ins 18 JCI

18 JCl 17 Jerome (S) 22 Kautof Holding

Companies in this issue

Abtrust New Thai
Alexon
Allied Group
American Cyanamid
Apple Computer
EM
BNP
BancOne
Bell Atlantic
Boot (Henry)
Boral
Bouygues
Bulgin (AF)
Canadian Plaza
Coronio
CentreGold
Chemical Banking
Cheung Kong
Ciputra Developmen
Citicoro

16 Kenwood Appliances 15 Lonnto 18 McKechnie 23 NWA 17 Octavian Owners Abrosc 22 Randcoal 18 Rhône Poulenc Samuel Montagu Santos Edioburgh Inv 23 16 16 Sprint 18 Time Warner Efficients GTE 22 Unisys 15 Uplohn 23 Venturi Inv Tst iden Vale Virtuality Warner-Lambert

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Corrigan moves to Goldman



Gerald Corrigan: a dartboard target in some trading rooms

ness, including market and oper-

stional risks, said Mr Friedman.

Explaining the need for a full review, he said: "We should not

just close the stable door after

Mr Corrigan caused a stir

throughout the banking industry

at the start of last year when he

questioned whether banks had

sufficient control over the risks

they were running in the deriva-

tives markets.
Yesterday, he said the furore stirred up his speech had had a positive effect: "There is no ques-

tion in my mind that it has

helped to stimulate a more

aggressive approach to risk man-

agement systems and better management information. I haven't

regretted making that speech -

even if it made me a dartboard

bank supervisor, Mr Corrigan

said he had decided not to take a

Also, he will not advise Gold-

man on its trading activities or on any bank-related transactions

until after next summer, when he

has been out of the Federal

The move into the private sec-

provocative statements in future.

Reserve system for a year.

position at a commercial bank.

Because of his former role as a

target in some trading rooms."

the horse has bolted."

By Richard Waters in New York

MR Gerald Corrigan, one of the leading figures in international finance before he stepped down as head of the New York Federal Reserve Bank this summer, is to take on a full-time position with Goldman Sachs at the start of next year.

However, Mr Corrigan, 52, will not become a partner of the firm, which is renowned as one of the most profitable - and secretive on Wall Street, and will have no line management responsibilities.

The bulk of his income will take the form of what he termed a "plain vanilla" salary, rather than the profit shares which have made Goldman partners among the highest paid in the

The former New York Fed chief, who began his career as an at the Fed 25 years ago, will take charge of one-off projects at Goldman, as well as dealing with the banks' clients and taking responsibility for

some transactions. Both he and Mr Stephen Friedman, Goldman chairman, denied this would give him only a peripheral role at the bank. They also said the position had been specially designed to give Mr Corrigan flexibility, rather than tie

him down to only one role. One of Mr Corrigan's first assignments is likely to be a review of all the risks incurred by Goldman Sachs in its busi-

Balance of power shifts at Lonrho

By Robert Peston and

MR TINY ROWLAND'S reign as near-autocrat of Lonrho came to an end yesterday after the inter-national conglomerate's board agreed to the appointment of non-executive directors for the first time in 20 years,

In a short meeting, the 12-man board voted unanimously to appoint two non-executive directors nominated by Mr Dieter Bock, joint chief executive of the UK-based group. They are Mr Peter Harper, a director of the conglomerate Hanson, and Mr Stephen Walls, chairman of Albert Fisher, the food group.

At the last minute, however, Mr Rowland succeeded in having two other directors appointed -Sir John Leahy, former ambassador to South Africa, as a non-executive, and Mr Terence Wilkin son, managing director of Lourno's South African interests,

Although the showdown between Mr Rowland, Lonrho's guiding force for 30 years, and Mr Bock, the steely German financier appointed last year, ended bloodlessly, there was lit-tie doubt that the balance of power had slipped away from the 75-year-old.

The real negotiations had taken place the previous afternoon at the company's City of London head office. Mr Rowland instated that Mr Bock's nominees should be balanced by a further two appointments. Mr Bock acquiesced, because he "did not want to embroil the company in an expensive public row", according to one of his advisers.

Mr Rowland has been opposed to non-executives since 1973 when the "straight eight" directors - described by him as "deco-rations on a Christmas tree" unsuccessfully tried to remove him. Twelve days ago he delayed the appointments of Mr Harper nd Mr Walls

Mr Bock, who acquired 18.8 per cent of Lonrho early this year, believes that Sir John and Mr Wilkinson will act impartially. He is, therefore, convinced that the balance on the 16-member board has tipped in his avour.

Mr Bock's support will be tested as he tries to transform tor for the former central banker Lonrho into a more conventional company. This will include cuts is unlikely to stop him making Clearly, it's the other side of the in the 18 executive directors and he said. "But I don't in the £20m (\$30m) running costs intend to become a wallflower on of the headquarters, and the crebroad issues of public interest ation of an audit committee. Lex. Page 14

Improving quality of loans boosts Citicorp

By Richard Waters in New York

BUOYED by continuing improvements in the credit quality of its loan portfolio, Citicorp, the US's largest banking group, yesterday reported an 18 per cent rise in third-quarter after-tax earnings compared with the previous three months.

While pointing to a further improvement in the bank's capital and reserves, Mr John Reed, chairman, added: "The best news in our results was in credit costs, which are declining more rapidly than we had expected, and in the improvement in the quality of

our portfolios." During the three months, net income rose to \$528m, or 97 cents a share, from \$446m (82 cents a share) in the previous three months and \$116m (17 cents a share) in the third quarter of 1992. Commercial credit costs in the third quarter were \$233m, down from \$297m in the second three months of the year, while

The bank's portfolio of troubled North American property - one of the main causes of its difficulties two years ago - also showed improvements: due to reduced credit costs, this part of the bank's business reported a loss of \$129m, compared with \$268m in the same period last year. Trou-bled property loans and property

owned by the bank fell to \$4.7bn,

down \$614m during the quarter. Trading income, which in pre-vious quarters had provided the fastest-growing source of revenues, amounted to \$478m, down from \$572m in the previous three months (though ahead of the \$451m of the 1992 third quarter). Income from foreign exchange trading fell by nearly a third, from \$352m to \$245m, while securities trading revenues rose marginally to \$233m.

Despite recent afforts to control

costs, the group's operating expenses during the period were

credit costs on consumer lending 3 per cent higher than the previ-were \$665m (down from \$708m). ous three months. This was largely due to expansion in developing countries, and bonuses paid as a result of trading profits. Cost control remains a high priority, Mr Reed said.

Through retained earnings and the sale of new preference shares, Citicorp lifted its key tier one risk-adjusted capital ratio to 6 per cent at the end of September, from 4.3 a year before - though still well below the 8 to 9 per cent range targeted by the bank in the medium term.

Citicorp's share price, which had fallen along with other banks on Monday in reaction to J.P. Morgan's decision to cut its prime lending rate, rose \$1% to \$36% by midday yesterday.

Bancone, one of the US's fastest growing super-regional banks, reported net income of \$284.9m. or 82 cents a share, in the third quarter, up from \$245.7m (70 cents a share) in the third quar-

Gilts rally as Bank cancels November auction

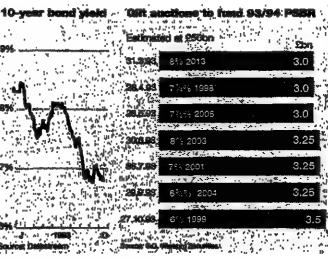
By Conner Middelmann

THE BANK of England's announcement yesterday that there would be no gilt auction in November triggered a sharp rally in the government bond market, as dealers speculated that October's auction may be the last this

The December long gilt future reached a new contract high of 114 g, closing a lower but still up more than half a

day. The record size of the October auction, slated at £3.5bn, and the government's well advanced funding programme sparked some speculation that the Bank might cancel the December auction. The Bank said no gilt auction would be held next month because it would be too close to the Budget on on November 30.

"I can't help feeling the Budget was used rather as an excuse to cancel the auction," said Mr Simon Briscoe, UK economist with SG Warburg Securities. The Treasury is well ahead in



pants estimate that, including next week's auction, the Bank will have financed some £40bn of the projected £50bn public sector borrowing requirement. Moreover, many analysts expect the PSBR to come in lower than forecast, at £45bn-47bn.

If an auction is held in December - and the bank is keeping its options open - it could be held earlier than the traditional last Wednesday of the month, which would be in the middle of the holiday season. "They could easily hold an auction in the first half of the month," said Mr Chris Anthony, gilts analyst with UBS. But some traders said that the

Bank might be reluctant to hold an auction mid-month, when market conditions can be volatile amid the regular raft of monthly

auctions until January, "that doesn't stop them from selling taps in the meantime," said Brian Plaistow, head of gilts treding at Nomura International.

"They could do as much funding through tap sales as if the were holding an auction," said another dealer. If the Budget was well received by the gilts market. the Bank could make substantial tap sales with relative ease.

This year's buil run in the gilts market has facilitated the funding of the UK's growing PSBR. The yield on the 10-year benchmark gilt has fallen sharply to 6.78 per cent from 8.15 per cent in The bonds to be sold at this

month's auction will carry a 6 per cent coupon and mature on August 10 1999. Lex. Page 14

Barry Riley

Global bulls graze on familiar pastures



The liquidity-driven global bull market in bonds and equities is still running strongly, refuelled recently by increased confidence that US

monetary policy is not going to ed any time soon, some say not for another year. Mean-while, of course, rates are still actually falling in Japan and Europe. Classic cyclical influences are at work. As deposit rates come

down, resources are transferred from banks into the securities markets. This is reinforced by high savings rates because of the low confidence of consumers in difficult economic conditions, exacerbated by the problems faced by the personal sectors of several countries in coping with high debt levels inherited from the 1980s boom. Prices of financial assets are being bid up.

A research note from Kleinwort Benson points out that deposits now account for just 19 per cent of US household financial assets, down from 26 per cent in 1985. Mutual funds have risen from 2 per cent to 6 per cent over the same period, and August net inflows hit a new peak, with \$11.4bn going into equity funds and \$14.4bn into bond funds. The aggregate net sales for the year could be over \$250bn at this rate.

An increasing part of these vast capital flows is being directed overseas. This impetus for the global markets is being reinforced by US pension funds, which are not revelling in new money flows to anything like the crash was of the potential value same extent, but which happen to have embarked on a diversifi-

cation drive. When 1 per cent of US pension fund assets moves out of the country, that is \$30bn on the rampage.

In the context of such massive flows of capital, normal bases of stock market valuation go out of the window. Hong Kong has always been a "cheap" market on fundamentals because the risks are high, but these quibbles cannot survive in the face of tidal waves of foreign capital. The last time it happened was in 1987, when the Hong Kong market rocketed 51 per cent in five months before the October crash.

It is not clear that there will be a similar warning bell in future

Hence the fears that bubbles are being generated. We know from the 1987 experience how modern financial markets can behave. History will not exactly repeat itself, but the faintest whisper of a rise in US interest rates is going to cause a lot of trouble in markets around the

The attitude of professional investors is ambivalent. Booming markets attract business. US mutual funds do not turn money away because it is a bad time to invest, they eagerly rake it in and keep fully exposed. The risks

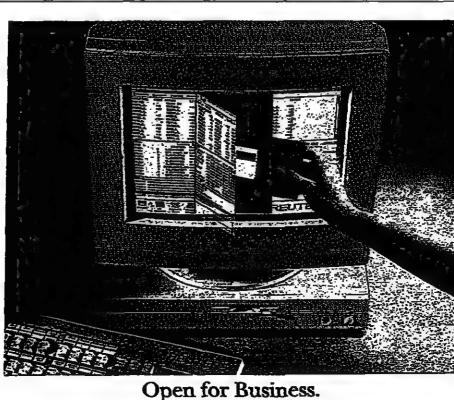
can be passed on to the clients. All the same, one of the lessons learned at the time of the 1987 of tactical asset allocation models, which warn when the bond of line. You might not think that professional investment managers would need a computer model to tell them when this has happened, but people can get carried away with bull market euphoria in a way that microprocessor chips cannot.

Those few that obeyed their TAA models in the summer of 1987 did well. It is not clear, however, that they will get a similar warning bell in future. The models they are using are generally quite happy with current yield

The ratio of the long bond yield to the equity market dividend yield in the UK, for instance, is about 2, which is very comfortable in terms of the experience of the past 20 years. But interest rates, inflation and economic growth are all much lower than they were in the 1970s and 1980s. We need a model tailored to the

If the models cannot be trusted we are thrown back on traditional warning signs of an imminent stock market peak. One of these is that money tends to move into fringe areas in search of value that no longer exists in the mainstream. The Hong Kong market has risen by 54 per cent in the last seven months. Another is that naive private investor money tends to flood in at the peak. Does this sound at all familiar?

Still another is that bond prices tend to top out several months before equities, although there is some evidence that the time lags have tended to shorten. Last Friday's new low for the US Treasury long bond yield was reassuring, but we must keep watching



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Even the price of phenol. which has suffered from over-

supply and a sharp fall in

demand, is stabilising. In the

fibres division, which saw prof-

its fall to FFr36m in the first

half from FFr418m, benefits of

restructuring - such as July's

joint venture with Snia of Italy

improve margins.

should help curb costs and

Broader reorganisation

within Rhone-Poulenc is likely

to be one of the most impor-

tant factors in a return to

profit growth. The sale of

shares in Roussel-Uclaf for

about FFr4.5bn in June, are

helping to reduce the group's

debt from about FFr25bn. It

seems possible that the compa-

50 per cent by the end of 1994

could be achieved by the end of

this year. About 10 non-core

businesses remain in Rhone-

Poulenc and some could be

The benefits of reorganisa-

tion should bring more funda-

mental advantages. Mr Four-

tou's strategy since taking over

has been to transform Rhône

Poulenc from a production-ori-

ented company to one focused.

on marketing and innovation.

More than 80 of the group's

businesses have been sold as

part of the the shift in strat-

egy. Annual R&D expenditure.

has increased to FFr6.5on from

The benefits of this shift in

focus and restructuring, have

been masked by the depressed

state of many of its markets.

The group should find itself in

a relatively strong position

when European economies.

France and Germany in partic-

ular, start to revive. The group

has important launches in

drugs, agrochemicals and spe-

about FFr3bn in 1986.

spun off or sold.

ny's target debt/equity ratio of

assets, such as the group's

in third

Bouygues issues warning after 27% fall mid-term

By Alice Rawsthorn in Paris

BOUYGUES, the French company which is the world's largest construction group, yesterday warned of a fall in net profits for 1993. This came as it announced a 27 per cent reduction in net profits to FFr79m (\$14.1m) in the first half of the year from FFr108m in the same period last year.

The group, whose founder, Mr Francis Bouygues, died earlier this year, said it hoped to be able to maintain the same overall level of activity in 1993 as in 1992, but was concerned that the downturn in its prop-erty division would depress

Bouygues which, like other construction companies has been badly affected by the decline in European building activity, suffered a slight fall

By Christopher Brown-Humes in Stockholm

EFFJOHN, the Helsinki-based

passenger shipping group,

staged a strong recovery in the

first eight months, as better

results from its Baltic Sea

operations offset continued

losses in its international

The group broke even after

financial items, having posted

a FM102m (\$17.8m) loss for the

cruise activities.

in turnover to FFr29.3bn in the edly heavy interim loss. Bouyfirst half of this year from FFr30bn at the same stage last year. Its core public works division saw sales stabilise at

Property was one of the worst affected areas of activity during the first half as the group was hit by the problems of the residential and commercial markets in France and other countries.

The group expects these difficulties to continue in the second half with property turnover falling to FFr3.Sbn in 1993 against FFr5.5bn in 1992. Road construction was

another problematic area in

the first half. Sales in this divi-

slon rose slightly to FFr9.8bn from FFr9.4bn. However, Colas, the group's

road construction subsidiary, recently reported an unexpect-

Effjohn stages strong recovery

full year, but says the figure will be lower than last year's

Effjohn's main unit, Silja

Line, was able to strengthen its

position on its key Baltic

routes with streamlining and a

reduced challenge from its

Silja was able to increase

passenger numbers by 27 per cent to 3.8m, although the

Finnish and Swedish econo-

mies remained weak. Operat-

main competitor.

same period in 1992. It still ing profits were up to FM146m expects to make a loss for the from FM63m.

places 51% of plastics processor gues anticipates a slight improvement from this divi-By Nicholas Denton sion in the second half with

full-year sales rising to

Bouygues was bruised by a

fall in interim profits at TF1,

the flagship French television

station in which it is a 25 per

cent shareholder. This was due

to the general pressures on the

French media and a reduction

in exceptional profits from

The group said that, at the

end of September, its orders for

nublic works were stable

against the same period of the

previous year, with off-shore

orders showing a slight

improvement. Bouygues fore-

cast an overall reduction in

sales of 5 per cent to FFr59.3bn

from FFr62.7bn for the full

By contrast, the group's

international activities, which

include the cross-Channel com-

pany, Sally UK, and cruise

shipping operations in the US.

saw operating losses deepen to

Turnover was up 33 per cent

The FM204m operating

profit, which included a

FM96m gain from vessel sales.

was wiped out by higher finan-

cial costs reflecting the group's

extensive investments in new

FM38m from FM25m.

at FM3.24bn.

operty sales.

FFr22bn from FFr21.3bn.

in Budapest

Hungary

HUNGARY'S State Property Agency yesterday announced that it had placed 51 per cent of Pannonplast, the stateowned plastics processor, with UK and US investors.

Details of the transaction were not disclosed by the pri-vatisation agency, but the purchasers are believed to include

emerging markets funds.

The placement, arranged by Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment bank, clears the way for another tranche to be offered to the public and floated on the Budapest Stock

Some of the shares will be offered on concessionary terms under the small investor share-buying programme decided upon last week by the Hungarian cabinet.

Pannonplast was among eight companies named as candidates for the first wave of sales from next January under the new privatisation scheme

Over five years, Hungary's conservative government intends to sell state shareholdings worth Filooba (\$1.08ba) in 70 companies on concession ary terms to small investors in an effort to broaden share

ownership and privatisation. Every adult Hungarian paying a Ft2.000 entrance fee will be entitled to a Pt100,000 interest-free credit facility which can be used to subscribe to the public offerings.

The Pannonplast announcement comes three years after the company's privatisation was originally announced as part of Hungary's failed first privatisation programme.

An IPO scheduled for July

1991 had to be postponed

because of the rapid deterioration of the economy following the collapse of the Comecon east European trading bloc. The SPA said that a subsequent restructuring had reduced debt levels and improved operating profitabil-

ity, allowing the current private placement A recent revival in the Budapest stock market has also improved the investment envi-

Rhône-Poulenc takes centre stage John Ridding and Paul Abrahams look at the French chemical group

Banque Nationale de Paris, successfully launched on the Paris stock market on Monday, will be a hard act to follow. The challenge will fall to Rhône-Poulenc, France's flagship chemicals group, chosen by the French government as the next public-sector company to take its place on the auction block.

Several factors suggest a reneat performance when the chemicals group is sold within the next few weeks. Rhône-Poulenc has been partially privatised. A sale of 10 per cent of the company's shares in January reduced the government's direct holding in the chemicals group to 43 per cent, with Credit Lyonnais, the state-con-trolled bank, and AGF, the state-controlled insurance group, holding 8.2 per cent and

7.7 per cent respectively.

The reduction in the state's stake has given Rhône-Poulenc experience of share issues and makes the sale a relatively small operation. The government's remaining shares are valued at about FFr15bn (\$2.7bn), compared with the FFr28bn raised by BNP and the FFr50bn which would flow from the sale of the government's 50 per cent stake in Elf-Aquitaine, the oil, chemicals and pharmaceuticals group which is next on the govern-

ment's privatisation list. For the first time, the gov-ernment will use a book-building technique to ascertain the value of the shares. However, the precedent of BNP which was cheaper than expected, and the need for the government to maintain momentum in its plans to privatise 21

unlikely to be expensive. As with BNP, the price asked of a group of stable core shareholders - expected to hold between 25 per cent and 35 per cent of Rhône-Poulenc after privatisation - is expected to be higher than for individual investors. But this is not expected to pose difficulties, and the formation of such a group appears nearly complete. Crédit Lyonnais and AGP are expected to be joined by Axa, the insurance group, and BNP, in which Rhône-Poulenc took a

The Dassault and Mérieux

its privatisation.

1 per cent stake at the time of

THE privatisation of families will become core shareholders following a share issue which will give Rhone-Poulenc complete ownership of Institute Mérieux, the vaccines

If the technical aspects of the issue and the probability of an attractive price support the prediction of a smooth privatisation, however, the company faces a series of challenges at the operating level. First-half profits, announced last month, showed a fall of 11 per cent to FFri.37bn. Mr Jean René Fourtou, the group's chairman, expects full-year profits to decline and does not expect a significant recovery next year.

The reasons are to be found in the company's operating environment. Healthcare remains the group's most important business. S.G. Warburg, brokers, expects the division to generate operating profits this year of FFr6bn. compared with FFr6.4hn for the group. But the healthcare operations, which include the majority-owned subsidiary Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, have been hit by healthcare reforms in Germany, Italy and the UK. Sales for the subsidiary could fall during the third quarter compared with the same period last year. For the year they will continue to rise.

Analysts expect RPR's underlying sales growth to be about 7 per cent this year, while earnings per share will grow by about 15 per cent as interest payments fall and costcutting improves margins.

In the longer term, reforms in France, which accounts for 25 per cent of the group's healthcare sales, are inevitable, admits the company. However, it insists any changes will be less severe than elsewhere on the continent.

The agrochemicals sector is troubled. Rhone-Poulenc's activities, which generated sales in 1992 of FFr10.3bn, are

Rhône-Poulenc (Operating profit

6,272

Jean René Fourtou: expects a decline in full-year profits

expected to report falls in turnover and trading profits this year. Its most important mar-kets. France and Germany, dropped 25 per cent this year following the reforms of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy. The group is launching two products in the next two years which should lift sales but incur additional marketing

eanwhile, Rhône-Poulenc's more traditional chemicals activities have been hit by a downturn in Germany and France which was more serious and prolonged than expected by the management.

Analysts believe fibres and polymers may break even this year on a turnover of about FFr10.5bn. The organic and inorganic intermediates division is expected to tumble into loss on turnover of FFr13.4bn and speciality chemicals, heavily weighted towards the US and UK, should make a small pr

Howev be over.

-700

6,400

-2,300

1992

562

4,982 870 532

-675 5,779

rofit of FFr600m on of FFr12.3bn. er, the worst seems to in chemicals, prices o have stopped falling.	cialty chemicals, whose success will be critical for the company's future. Profitability should be assisted by privatisation. Mr Fourtou has argued that the
by sector, FTr m)	sale of the government's stake will make it easier to raise new
1993(E) 1994(E)	capital, strengthening the bal-
-200 200 800 800 8,000 5,500 700 850	ance sheet and reducing the cost of debt. The company does not anticipate a new share
700 000	issue immediately, relying on

F700 8,050

sisted by privatisation. Mr ourtou has argued that the de of the government's stake ill make it easier to raise new ipital, strengthening the balnce sheet and reducing the ost of debt. The company does ot anticipate a new share sue immediately, relying on continued restructuring to reduce borrowings. But the more impressive the privatisation act, the greater the attractions of a return to the market.

time results" from Enertech,

Wolseley confounds forecasters

By David Blackwell in London

THE SHARE price of Wolseley rose 18p to 692p yesterday as the rapidly expanding UK building materials group again confounded forecasters with higher than expected profits for the year to July 31.

Pre-tax profits rose by a third to £121.1m (\$182m) from 291.3m. Analysts had expected between £110m and £115m.

Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director. said recession had eased, particularly on the US east coast

The figures included "surprisingly encouraging firstthe Swedish oli and gas burner manufacturer acquired for £45m in April, which made a

ing the year contributed £1.1m. A currency benefit added £5.5m, up from £0.7m.

The group also reduced costs, although Mr Lancaster gave no details. We have run this business lean and mean for 30 years, and we just run it lean and mean all the time," he

Turnover increased by 37 per cent from £1.95bn to £2.5bn. including £69.4m from acquisitions. Of the total, £1bn derived from building distribution in Europe; £1.2bn from trading contribution of £3.6m. building distribution in the Other acquisitions made dur-US and £278.5m from European manufacturing and other activ-

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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The undersigned acted as advisors to Kaufhof Holding AG

CS First Boston

As Depositary, Kaufhof Holding AG has appointed

Morgan Stanley Trust Company

Morgan Stanley & Co

Goldman, Sachs & Co

Mr Lancaster described UK recovery as "patchy". Earnings per share rose from 26.27p to 33.6p. A final dividend of 9.75p (against 9.45p) is proposed, taking the total for the year to 13.3p. from 12.55p.

ORESUND LINK

Ø R E S U N D

Under a Treaty of March 23, 1991, the Governments of Denmark and Sweden have agreed to have constructed an approx 16 kilometres, toll-funded, fixed link for rail and road traffic across the Sound between Copenhagen in Denmark and Malmö in Sweden, called the Oresund Link. The said Governments have established a joint-venture, called Oresundskonsortiet, which shall own and be responsible for the construction and operation of the Oresund Link.

The project is at present subject to a scrutiny process pursuant to national laws in Denmark and Sweden. Final approval of the project is subject to a decision by the Governments of Denmark and Sweden tentatively expected in December 1993.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR **PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS**

Oresundskonsortiet hereby invites interested contractors to pre-qualify to tender for one or more of the following contracts for the Oresund Link.

The works will be executed i.a. under the

following major contracts: ◆ Contract No. 1 - Tunnel

Contract No. 2 - Dredging and Reclamation

 Contract Nos. 3a and 3b - Bridges The nature of the contracts is design and construction contracts. Pre-qualification will be made separately for each contract.

The Tunnel Contract comprises the design and construction of an approx 3,000 m long immersed tube tunnel under the Drogden Channel, excluding buik dredging but including portals. The tunnel will be placed at a depth which enables later dredging to a depth of num 10 m in the Channel. The present depth is

The Dredging and Reclamation Contract comprises dredging i.a. for the above immersed tunnel, and of the Flinte Channel, and design and construction of an artificial peninsula at Kastrup, and of an artificial island complex of a length of approx 4,000 m south of Saltholm together with associated construction works, which may

include a bridge, a railway tunnel and roadworks. The Bridges Contracts comprise the design and construction of approx 1,500-2,500 m high bridge, including a cable stayed section with approx 500 m span and min. 55 m clearance (Contract 3a); and of approx 5,000-6,000 m approach bridges (Contract 3b).

Railway installations are not included in the above contracts. Dimensions have not been finally

established.

The above works are planned to commence: ◆ Contract No. 1

Contract No. 2

October 1994 August 1994 ◆ Contract Nos. 3a and 3b December 1994 Completion of the entire Oresund Link is planned to take place by mid - 1999.

Any contractor wishing to pre-qualify to tender for one or more of the above contracts shall notify Öresundskonsortiet to that effect and obtain the pre-qualification document at either of the below addresses.

The contractor shall complete the pre-qualification document(s), and return the same together with supporting documentation to Oresundskonsortiet under its address in Malmó, Sweden,

Closing date for submission of the completed prequalification document(s) is December 20, 1993, 14.00 hours, local time.

Oresundskonsortiet will select the contractors qualified to tender with the intention to restrict the number of tenderers to five for each contract.

Invitation to tender is tentatively expected before March 1994 for Contract No. 1 and Contract No. 2, and before May 1994 for Contract Nos. 32 and 3b.

All documentation and correspondence shall be in English (except where otherwise is accepted in the prequalification document(s)).

For further information please contact Mr Jan Danielson, Managing Director & CEO or Mr Peter Lundhus, Technical Director.

Finally, reference is made to the notices dispatched on October 13, 1993 for publication in the Official Journal of

the European Communities.

In Sweden

The addresses of Öresundskonsortiet are:

In Denmark Att: P Lundhus Ref: Prequalification Vesser Soegade 10 DK-1601 Copenhagen V

Telephone: + 45 33 41 60 00 Telefacsimile: + 45 33 93 52 04

Att: P Lundhus Ref: Prequalification Kalendegatan 18 P.O. Box 4132 S-203 12 Malmo

Telephone: + +6 +0 660 6000 Telefacsimile: + 46 40 660 6040

October 20, 1993

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US\$50,000,000
GUARANTEED FLOATING RATE NOTES DUE 1997
GUARANTEED BY DIXONS GROUP PLC In accordance with the provisions of the Notes notice is hereby given that for the period 20 October 1993 to 20 April 1994 the Notes will carry a rate of interest of 4 125% per annum with a coupon amount of US\$2,085.42 per US\$100,000.00

M, CHEMICAL

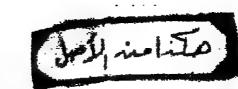
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Carlo Carlo S. W.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

But still he had no thoughts of

company have any ambitions

joining Spectrum, nor did the

to hire one of the best-known executives in the industry.

examination of its business,

hired a team of engineers to assess its technology and attor-

neys to examine its patent

claims, worked out an employ-

ment contract and finally, on

Sunday night, signed an agree-ment to join Spectrum as

chairman and chief executive.

Mr Sculley has acquired rights to take a significant

equity stake in Spectrum, through stock options, but

declined to give details.

Both Mr Sculley and Mr Cas-

Both are reluctant to discuss

Hartebeestionlein

Working profit – gold mining

Profit before taxation and State's shere of profit Texation and State's share

rietion for loan

Sampling results on Vasi Roef

of profit

30 June 1994

Nine months anding

NWA back in the black at \$112.3m in third term

By Richard Tornkins In New York

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NWA, parent of Northwest Airlines, the fourth-largest US carrier, reported net profits of \$112.3m for the third quarter, compared with net losses of \$19.7m for the same quarter

The company said the results showed action taken to restructure the troubled airline over the last year had begun to take effect. Earlier this year, the heavily

indebted company narrowly escaped filing for bankruptcy by securing wage and benefit concessions from labour unions and agreeing a restructuring of its bank

... The company's shares are privately held following a 1989 leveraged buy-out led by Mr Alfred Checchi and Mr Gary Wilson, now joint chairmen.

Mr John Dasburg, president and chief executive officer, said the third quarter was the strongest period of the year for airlines.

Last year's figure had been unusually depressed by a fares war initiated by a competitor, so an improvement had been

Rowever, Mr Dasburg said the substantial improvement iemonstrated progress in positioning Northwest for long-term profitability.

"We still have much work shead of us, but we are pleased with our results in the third quarter and grateful to the people of Northwest for their diligent afforts to restore Northwest to profitability," he

Traffic for the quarter decreased 9.1 per cent to 18.94bn passenger miles from 17.54bn the previous year, but profits improved because loss-making domestic routes were cut and costs came down.

Mr Dasburg said the wage and benefit reductions agreed by employees had contributed \$40m to third quarter profits. Turnover rose by 5.9 per cent to \$2.383bn and operating profits rose to \$270.1m from

· LTV, the third higgest US steel producer which in June emerged from seven years of bankruptcy protection, turned in third-quarter profit of \$400,000, against \$632.4m a year earlier, agencies report

Revenues rose to \$1.05bn from \$044.Tm.

Net earnings for the nine

Interacting with the full Spectrum

Louise Kehoe on former Apple head John Sculley's surprise move

R JOHN Sculley's move from Apple Computer to Spectrum Information Technologies trum. "I stumbled on to it. I'm almost embarrassed to explain," he says. "Mr Peter Caserta [Spectrum chief execuhas perplexed many observers. Why should a man who could have his pick of jobs in the emerging world of digital inter-active media, choose Spectrum, a \$100m revenue company that has lost money for the past five YEARS?

"I looked at a whole bunch of opportunities over the past few months, everything from running major corporations to various derivative businesses in interactive television," Mr

"Sculley says.

"But I had little interest in running a major corporation. I have already done that a couple of times" - at PepsiCo and Apple. "My real interest, having been bitten by the bug of Silicon Valley, was in doing something very entrepreneurial, where I had a chance for significant smalth exercise." significant wealth creation."

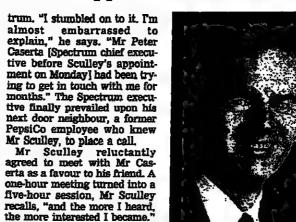
He was drawn to Spectrum

by its patented technology that enables wireless data communication, via cellular networks. linking portable computers and personal digital assistants. such as Newton, his pet project at Apple.

He describes excitedly the first time he saw Spectrum's cellular modem technology operating, four weeks ago in his new Connecticut home; sending messages, via a cellu-lar telephone from his Apple Newton to a fax machine.

erta, now vice-chairman of "Suddenly I realised all the things that we talked about Spectrum, talked on Monday of building Spectrum into a comwith Newton, about mobile pany with the clout of Intel and Microsoft, two of the most communications, but had not been able to deliver at the powerful companies in the computer industry. product launch in August,

were now possible."
But Mr Sculley claims "zero credit" for discovering Spec-



John Sculley: sees Spectrum as 'a gem of a company'

Only after Mr Sculley resigned from Apple, last Wednesday, did he begin negotiations about joining Spectrum. He set about a thorough trum as a "gem of a company". If so, say other computer industry executives, it is a diamond in the rough, lacking the polish that might be expected of a company with which Mr Sculley would associate him-

> In May, Spectrum announced a technology licensing agreement with AT&T and claimed that it would make "hundreds of millions of dollars" from the deal. Its stock soared \$9 to \$13% in a few days. But when AT&T said it expected to pay Spectrum only "a few million dollars over three or four years," the stock plummeted to \$4. Shareholder lawsuits are

This and other controversies surrounding technology licensing agreements, Spectrum's acquisition last year of a chain of computer stores and disputes over its patent claims have earned it a mixed reputa-Spectrum's past business dealings, but Mr Sculley sees Specfor the past five years. On

leaped from \$7% to \$11% on news of Mr Sculley's arrival. But none of this seems to worry Mr Sculley. "I've satisfied myself that I'm comfortable attaching my reputation to this," he says. "The draw for me is a chance to be able to help a company, much as I did when I went to Apple 10 years

ago," he says.
"The model I was looking for, my ideal, was to do some-thing like Barry Diller did with QVC, the television shopping channel, a year ago. He found a small company that nobody had noticed. When he joined up he got an equity position in the company and a lot of people started looking at it and

saw its potential."
"The world will have to equivalent to that. But Spec trum has a lot of things that were on my list of criteria."

n particular, Mr Sculley says he was looking for a company that could profit from the convergence of computer, communications and consumer electronics technologies. "I felt that if I could get a company that was small but had cash on its balance sheet -Spectrum has \$20m - we could begin to move into acquisitions, alliances and relationships. I know most of the heads of the major telecommu-nications companies around the world and can open doors

After his first day at the helm, Mr Sculley had set prior-ities: improving relations with licensors of Spectrum's technology and planning new es. 'I haven't been this excited since I joined Apple 10

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Santos accepts Boral's offer for Sagasco

SANTOS, the Adelaide-based gas exploration and production company, yesterday announced that it was accepting the takeover offer by Boral for Sagasco, in respect of its 19.9 per cent interest in the target company, writes Nikki Tuit in Sydney. Santos was a previous bidder

for Sagasco but ran into opposition from the Australian Trade Practices Commission. the TPC ensued.

While this was still under way, Boral, the building mate-rials group, put in an offer. Last week, with the support of the South Australia governmonths totalled \$4.07bn, against \$727m, with revenues rising to \$3.04bn from \$2.88bn. ment which holds a controlling stake in Sagasco, Boral gained control of its target.

Plate of exchange on 30 September 1992: R1,00 = £0,19, £1,00 = R5,23.

Development results given are the actual sampling results. No allowences have been made for adjust necessary in the valuation of the corresponding one meanure.

Shareholders requiring copies of these reports regularly each quarter should write to the Secretaries Anglowsai Truelees Limited, 8th Floor, 95 Devies Street, London, W1Y 1FN,

Mining companies' reports -- Quarter ended 30 September 1993

Gold Mining Co Lid Sexued capital: 112 000 000 shares of 10 cente each 1 001 000 26 672 E.H 294,55 250,61 52,00 31,00 27,222 6,356 908,134 368,28 365,46 112,81 40 252 27 643 12 308 S207 AE 98,36 37 678 28 609 11 069 281 451 286 507 Costs Profit 1 887 000 \$ 287 1,73 95,67 22,57 34,50 32 045 12 920 18 925 107 307 42 211 65 006 467 000 766 1,54 68,60 23,46 43,12 40,501 14,177 971 1,97 66,46 21,55 47,82 PA miled På miled 10 007 24 299 34 256 10 678 86 224 31 105 10 965 232 382 223 346 896 86**9** 0,11 0,11 P000 71000

107 751

(838) 5 866

112 679

51

112 628

56 364

58 264

0 841

158

6 997

The financial regults include the results of hedging transactions.

Costs for the quarter include a provision of R1 900 000 in respect of a profit-she scheme for employees which was introduced during the quarter.

In terms of the Company's articles of sesociation, the directors' borrowing powers are lighted to R50 000 000. At 30 September 1993, borrowings totalise R679 000 (1992: R2 512 000), of which long-term borrowings amounted to R55 000 (1992: R760 000) and short-term to R524 000 (1992: R1 752 000).

As at 30 September 1983, the Company had sold the lollowing portions of its future gold

In addition to the above forward sales commitments, the Company has entered into a saries of gold option transactions. These transactions ensure a minimum average price of RSS 742 per filogent in respect of 2 800 kilograms of gold during the linearcial year ending 30 June 1994 and RSS 224 per kilogram in respect of 2 800 kilograms of gold

during the year ending 30 June 1985. In the event that the sched rand spot prices of gold exceed the above minimum assured prices, the Company will benefit to the extent of 70 per cent of such excess for these amounts of gold. The above transactions are flexible in nature and may be adjusted to the Company's advantage in response to changes in

Kg of gold sold

100 392

(1 042) 6 414

105 783

1 975

103 786

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10 940

83 192

7 587

220 725

19 841

3 079

244 846

99 673

144 673

36 147

108 400

140 508

28 907

6 072

53 27,4 1 448 0,52 27,45

30 April 1995

(b) at the London Securities Department of Barclays Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Dept., 168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP. Unless persons depositing coupons at such office request payment in United States dollars (in which case they must comply with any applicable Exchange Control regulations), psyment will be made in United Kingdom currency either: (i) in respect of compons lodged on or prior to November 9, 1993, at the United Kingdom currency equivalent of the United States currency value of the dividend on November 2, 1993; or

(ii) in respect of coupons lodged on or after November 10, 1993, at the prevailing rate of exchange on the day the proceeds are remitted to the London Securities Department of Barclays Bank ple.

MINORCO

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES

PAYMENT OF COUPON No. 12

With reference to the notice of proposed final dividend advertised in the press on September 29, 1993 the following information is published for the guidance of holders of bearer share certificates. The dividend of 38 cents was declared in United States currency. The dividend will be paid on or after November 17, 1993, against surrender of Coupon No. 12 detached from bearer share certificates as follows:

(a) at the offices of the Corporation's Continental paying agents:

Banque Générale du Luzembourg

14, rue Aldringen
Luzembourg

Crédit du Nord

34, rue des Mathurina
75008 Paris

of Barelays Bank ple.

Coupons must be left for at least four clear days for examination (eight days if payment in United States currency has been requested) and may be presented any weekday (Saturday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from payments to any person in the United Kingdom in respect of coupons deposited at the London Securities Department of Barciays Bank ple, unless such coupons are accompanied by Inland Revenue non-residence declaration forms. Where such deduction is made the net amount of the dividend, after deducting United Kingdom Income tax at 20% will be 30.40 cents (United States) per share. In the case of payments made in United Kingdom currency the sterling equivalent of the net dividend will be calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) above.

Copies of the Annual Report of Minorco for the year to June 30, 1993 are available from the Registered Office of the Corporation and the offices of the paying agents referred to above. By Order of the Board

By Order of the Board Vinorco Société Anonyme

RC Luxembourg No. B12139



European Investment Bank italian Lira 500 Billion Floating Rate Notes due July 1997

Notice to the Holders Notice is hereby given that the Notes will carry an interest rate of 8.5825% per annum for the period 15.10, 1993 to 17.01; 1994.

 ITL 0,111,788 per ITL 05,000,000 nominal ITL 1,117,882 per ITL 50,000,000 nominal Luxembourg, October 20, 1993

,/-

Hartebeastfontein Gold Mining Co Ltd (continued) Divinitions
Final dividend No. 76 of 68 cents per chare, declared in May 1993, was paid in July 1993.

For and on behalf of the board

Directors: S.E. Hemoy C.M.S., Her. L.L.D., (Chalester). B.L. Bernatain Hon. LL.D., J.J. Coldenhye, L. Hunds, Chie S. Manet, G.L. Burner, R.A.D. Wilson ale ellentere: P.J. Bustines, B.J. Premiers, K.M. Heatines, G.J. Pathiague, J.H. von Minteri

Eastern Transvool Consolidated Mines, Lid

forward price Year ending Kg of gold sold per lig sold SO James 1939-4 R36 540 Ten monitis ending

As at 30 September 1993, the Company had sold the tollowing portions of its future gold

in addition to the above forward sales commitments, the Company has entered into a series of gold option transactions. These transactions ensure a minimum average price of R38 742 per itangram in respect of 330 bilograms of gold during the financial year ending 30 June 1994 and R38 224 per idlegram in respect of 336 bilograms of gold during the year ending 30 June 1985. In the event that the actual rand spot prices of gold exceed the above reintmum assured prices, the Company will benefit to the extent of 70 per cent of such excess for these amounts of gold. The above transactions are deathie in nature and may be adjusted to the Company's diventage in response to changes in the gold price.

Final dividend No. 86 of 7 cents per share, declared in May 1903, was paid in July 1983.

Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1993 are estimated at P3 116 000 (30 June 1993; F4 045 000). For and on behalf of the board R.A.D. Wilson

Directors: R.A.D., Wilson (Chairman), J.J. Geldenbuye, B.E. Herson D.M.S., Hon, LL.D., Clive S. Mignel, G.J. Robbeste, T.Y. Spindler, J.E. von Historia Alternate director: B.J. Funeton

R\$8 932

Loraine Gold Mines, Lid Reg. No. 08/2012/908 tesued capital: 18 566 966 shares of P11,00 each

Although good progress has been made on access and grid development to open up one reserves in the 3C shalt area, reef development has not yet commenced. The above tabulation therefore excludes reserves in respect of No. 3C shalt.

Operations
The treatment of surface dump material continued during the quarter. The reported
448 000 tons of one milited includes an estimated 163 000 tons of surface dump material
at an approximate grade of 0,80 g/l. The financial results include the results of hodging transactions. Costs britte quarter include a total amount of R1 188 000 paid to all employees in respect of a profit-sharing scheme introduced during 1992 (previous quarter: R800 000).

In terms of the Company's articles of essociation, the directors' borrowing powers are limited to R\$5,000,000. At 30 September 1995, borrowings totalled R\$731,000 (1992: R4 021,000), of which large term borrowings encounted to R\$484,000 (1992: R\$778,000) and short-term to R\$47,000 (1992: R\$43,000). As at 30 September 1993, the Company had sold the following portions of its future gold

per leg sold Year ending Kg of gold sold 30 September 1994 R36 518 28 February 1995 series of gold option transuctions. These transactions ensure a minimum average price of P42 308 per kilogram in respect of 6 338 kilograms of gold during the Enancial year ending 30 September 1894. In the ovent that the actual rand apot prices of gold exceed the above minimum assured prices, the Company will benefit to the extent of 50 per cent of such exceed for this amount of gold. The above transactions are facilities in rather and

For and an behalf of the board

Directors: R.A.D. Wilson (Chairman), P.J. Eustada, J.J. Galdachaya, B.E. Harsdy D.M.S., Hon, U.D. B.J. Langerson, G. Maude, Cirya S. Marrell, J.E. (Divior, G.J. Robbertzo, S.W. van der Colf Ademate charles: C.T B. Destpoey, B.J. Funstart, T.C. Rose, T.V. Spindler, K.A. Weel



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Finland's leading electrical wholesaler

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The undersigned initiated this transaction



and acted as financial adviser to OTRA N.V.

October 1993

All of these securities having been sold, this advertisement appears as a metter of record only

\$2,000,000,000



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NEW ISSUE

October 14, 1993

\$110,000,000

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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

More job cuts at Pfizer, Cyanamid

By Karen Zagor in New York

PFIZER and American Cyanamid, two of the biggest drugs companies, announced substantial staff cuts yesterday. The moves came as pricing pressures and the threat of pending US healthcare reform continue to force the industry to retrench.

Yesterday announcements follow last week's news from Eli Lilly that it would cut about 4,000 jobs. Other big drugs companies, including Merck and Johnson & Johnson, have also announced job cuts. Pfizer, considered one of the fastest-growing pharmaceutiearnings to cover its restructstaff by about 4,000, or 10 per

changing market conditions.
"We believe that the

share, against third-quarter uring and streamlining moves. These include the cutting of about 3,000 jobs. Ultimately, Pfizer expects to reduce its

Mr William Steere, Pfizer chairman and chief executive. said the company needed to improve its operating effi-ciency in the face of fast-

cals companies, took an after-tax charge of \$525m, or \$1.63 a

The company is also writing ing its manufacturing, distribution and administrative operations. It expects the restructuring to yield annual savings of at least \$130m.

Including the restructuring charge, Pfizer posted a third-quarter net loss of \$214.2m, or 65 cents, compared with net income of \$297.5m, or 88 cents. Stripping out one-time charges. it had net income of \$311m, or 98 cents, in the latest quarter. Sales rose 2 per cent to \$1.87bn

from \$1.83bn. prospect of US healthcare For the nine months, net reform will further accelerate income was \$368.6m, or \$1.15, cal business. changes already occurring in

on sales of \$5.49bn, against earnings of \$532.1m, or \$1.58. off some assets and consolidat- on sales of \$5.28bn. Excluding restructuring charges. Pfizer earned \$895m, or \$2.78, in the 1993 period. Excluding charges for accounting changes in the 1992 period, it earned \$814.7m, or \$2.42.

American Cyanamid will take a pre-tax charge of between \$150m and \$200m against fourth-quarter earnings to cover restructuring moves. These include cutting about 2,500 jobs, or 9 per cent of its worldwide workforce, in the next three years. Most of the cuts will come from medi-

Lower credit | Movies bolster Time Warner costs boost By Frank McGurty in New York the formation of the group in chase last month of the Chemical

By Richard Waters In How York

FALLING credit costs and a one-off tax benefit pushed post-tax earnings at Chemical Banking Corporation ahead to \$502m, or \$1.84 a share, in the third quarter, compared with \$381m in the previous three

Bank result

Chemical also announced the appointment of a new president, Mr Edward Miller, who will take over when Mr Walter Shipley becomes chairman at the end of the year.

Mr Miller, 53, was one of three candidates who had been in contention for the job, retirement of chairman Mr

John McGillicuddy, 62.
Leaving aside the tax benefit, which added \$140m more than had been anticipated to earnings, and a \$115m pre-tax charge (\$67m after tax) to reflect costs associated with the merger with Manufacturers Hanover, Chemical's net earnings for the period would have een \$429m, or \$1.55 a share.

Mr McGillicuddy said the quarter had seen strong increases in revenues in many of the bank's businesses. Due to improvements in credit quality, non-performing assets at the end of September had fallen to \$4.1bm, from \$6.6bm a

year before.

The loan-loss provision during the period fell to \$298m, from \$330m a year before. Third-quarter figures at Wells Fargo also reflected the benefit of improvements in credit quality, as net income rose to \$165m. or \$2.74. from

\$24m, or 21 cents, a year ago. The loan-loss provision, at \$120m, was down from \$140m in the preceding three months and \$400m in the third quarter

Cost-cutting helps Unisys to move ahead

By Louise Kehoe

UNISYS, the US computer and electronics group, lifted earn-ings in its third quarter in spite of a decline in revenues spite of a decline in revenues blamed on currency exchange rates and weak sales in Europe

and Japan. Net income for the quarter was \$84.1m, or 29 cents a share. compared with \$68.3m, or 23 cents, in the same period last

Excluding the positive effects of tax items in each year, earnings per share in the quarter were 20 cents, against

17 cents a year ago.
Revenue at 181.81bm
from \$2.07bm in the third quarter last year. About 35 per cent of the decline was due to the impact of negative currency translation, the company said.
Mr James Unruh, chairman
and chief executive, said cost reductions in the last two ears had produced continued improvement during an extended period of global eco-

"We are confident that investments being made in new services and products. together with the new organi sation structure announced in August will, over time, result in the generation of profitable revenue growth," he said.

"Deterioration in our European business accelerated in the quarter, and Japan continues to be weak, offsetting growth in other parts of our business," said Mr Unruh. He said the company would

"continue to reduce costs during this period of economic

For the nine-month period, net income was \$447.7m, or \$1.83, including a net gain of \$203.8m, or 83 cents a share. from one-time items in the first quarter. Last year net income was \$222m, or 79 cents, including \$27m, or 16 cents, from tax benefits. Revenue was \$5.64bn. compared with \$6.17bn.

TIME Warner, the largest US

entertainment group, yesterday posted an 8 per cent improvement in underlying earnings for the third quarter. It attributed the advance partly to the popularity of Warner Brothers' summer

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amorti-sation climbed to \$726m. on revenues of \$3.7bn, against earnings of \$575m and revenues of \$3.5bn in the third quarter of 1992.

However, the operating results exclude the effect of Time Warner's heavy debt burden and high non-cash amortiWith these factors included,

the group remained in the red. though its net loss narrowed to \$136m, or 36 cents, against \$152, or 41 cents, in the 1992 quarter.

The improvement partly reflects the benefits of the group's redemption of some preferred stock in February, and the exchange for other pre ferred shares for debt in April. On the operating level, four of the group's five divisions

reported record earnings. The film business turned in record earnings of \$204m. against \$185m a year ago, with the division's 1992 results restated to reflect Time Warner Entertainment's pur-

remaining 50 per cent of Six Flags theme parks. Warner Brothers led the film industry in US box office receipts this summer, with The

Fugitive, starring Harrison

Ford, generating \$172m in. The music division also had its best quarter, with \$428m in earnings. US sales of recorded music and worldwide sales of music publishing rights were

both higher. The group's HBO cableprogramming arm and its cable-services operation made strong contributions to the overall performance. They turned in record operating profits of \$57m and \$268m

US drug groups suffer setbacks

based industry pressures for its

Warner-Lambert has run

WARNER-Lambert, the US pharmaceuticals company, disappointed Wall Street with a 5 per cent fall in third-quarter net earnings to \$155.9m or \$1.16 a share, against \$164.6m or \$1.22 a year earlier. Its shares fell \$1% to \$69%.

Upjohn, another big drugs group, posted a third-quarter oss and is cutting 1,500 jobs. Warner-Lambert's sales rose

to \$1.49bn in the quarter from \$1.44bn. The company blamed previously disclosed regulatory issues involving its manufac-turing operations and broader-

into trouble with the Food and Drug Administration over

earnings decline.

record keeping and other violations at its manufacturing plants, especially in Puerto Rico. Manufacturing difficul-ties have cost it about \$150m in lost sales this year. Mr Arvind Desai, an analyst

at Mehta & Isaly in New York, said the poor results also reflected intensifying generic competition for the company's Lopid cholesterol-reducing

The company predicted flat

period totalied \$3.18bn, up from

\$3.08bn.
Bell Atlantic is currently

making a bid for cable group

earnings for the whole of 1993 of about \$4.78 a share. Upjohn suffered a third quade

ter deficit of \$30m, or 19 cents including restructuring charges of \$183m. A year earlier it earned \$131m, or 73 cents, including one-time

charges of \$15m.
It is cutting about 1,500 jobs worldwide, eliminating or reducing manufacturing capacity and writing-down certain intangible assets as well as increasing its liability reserves. Excluding one-time items, net income rose 5 per cent in the quarter. Sales edged 1 per cent higher to \$900m.

NEWS DIGEST

Bell Atlantic down slightly

RELL Atlantic, the "Baby Bell" regional telephone company, yesterday reported thirdquarter net income of \$378.5m. or 87 cents a share, compared with \$386.6m, or 90 cents, writes Martin Dickson in New

However, it said with special items in the two periods stripped out, its earnings per share rose 9.8 per cent, and net income was up 10.1 per cent. Operating revenues in the

Tele-Communications which could be worth more than

\$122m for quarter SPRINT, the US long-distance and local telephone group, lifted net income to \$122.2m, or 35 cents, from \$119.7m, or 35

Sprint improves to

cents last year. However, it said income from continuing operations totalled \$178m, or 51 cents, excluding special items.

This was up 42 per cent from last year's \$125m, or 37 cents. Revenues rose 9 per cent to

Net income little changed at GTE

GTE, the largest local tele phone company in the US, unveiled third-quarter net income of \$468m, or 49 cents, against \$465m, or 52 cents, last

Excluding special items, earnings per share totalled 59 cents, up 13 per cent.
Consolidated revenues and

sales totalled \$4.94bn against \$4.97bn

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

October 1993

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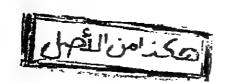
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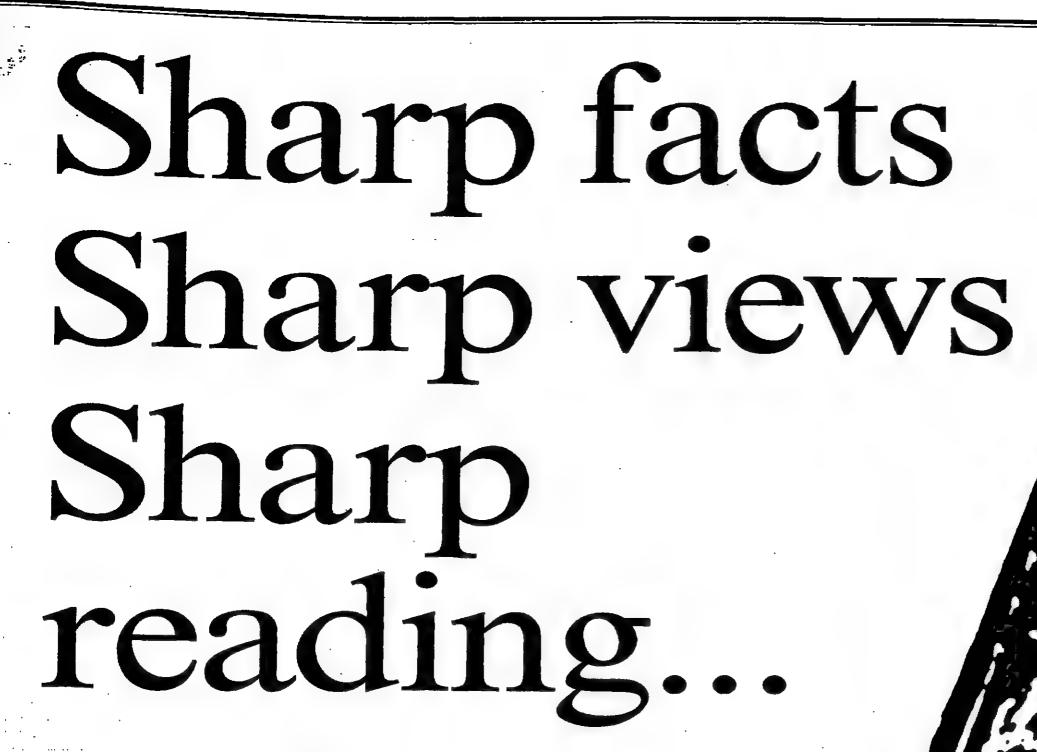
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(Sparbanken Sverige AB)

US\$150,000,000 Undated Subordinated Floating Rate Notes

Notice is hereby given that the notes will bear interest at 5.125% per annum from 20 October 1993 to 20 April 1994. Interest payable on 20 April 1994 will amount to US\$259.10 per US\$10,000 note

Agent: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company **JPMorgan**

HANC WIGHTGAGE WOTES 6 PLG 2150,000,000

27,500,000 Notes due July 2030

Notes due July 2030

Notice is hereby given that for the interest Period from October 18, 1963 to January 17, 1994 the Class & Notes and Class & Notes will carry Interest payable on the relevant Interest payable on the relevant Interest payment date, January 17, 1994 for the Class & Notes will be 11,485.26 per 298,000 nominal amount and for the Class & Notes will be \$1,598.46 per \$100,000 nominal amount.

REPAP ENTERPRISES INC. US \$200,000,000 FLOATING RATE NOTES DUE 1997

For the period 19 October 1993 to 19 January 1994 the Notes will carry an Interest rate of 6.25% per annum. The amount pavable per US \$250,000 will be US \$2824.80 payable on 19 January 1994. Agent Bank PARCLAYS BANK PLC BGSS DEPOSITIONY SERVICES P.O. BOX 1043, WINDSOR ROAD TROWBRIDGE, WILTS BA14 OYT

U.S. \$50,000,000

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Guaranteed Floating Plate Notes due 1006

For the three month interest Period 19th October, 1993 to 19th January, 1994 the Notes will carry an interest rate of

Will carry an interest rate or 3.875 per cent. per annum, with a Coupon Amount of U.S. \$495.14 per U.S. \$50,000 Note, payable on 19th January, 1994.

Listed on the Luxumbourd Stock Euchen

QUOTE

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KDB Asia Limited

two other listed companies with interests in manufacturing and property development. The largest shareholder Mr Lee Ming-tee, holds a 29.9 per cent stake and there is speculation that he may sell, which would give control of

that figure.

By Simon Davies

MR Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong

Holdings has acquired a 15 per

cent stake in Hong Kong-listed

Allied Group, one month after

a government inspector issued

a report listing numerous alle-

gations of corporate misfea-

sance by Allied's former

The investigation into five

companies associated with

Allied was launched in August

1992, and has had a drastic

impact on their share prices. Cheung Kong has paid around

HK\$500m (US\$64.7m) for its

stake in the parent company,

which analysts believe has an

asset value more than double

Cheung Kong is now the sec-

ond largest shareholder in

Allied Group, which controls

in Hong Keng

the group to Cheung Kong.
Following the recommenda

Cheung Kong pays

HK\$500m for 15%

of Allied Group

tions in the government inves tigation, it is possible that legal action may be taken against the former management of Allied. Stock market regulators are also examining possible breaches of securities regulations.

This has created substantial pressure for Mr Lee to withdraw from the group, and he recently resigned as chairman. Minority shareholders have yet to receive any direct benefit from the government's move to clean up the company. which has so far had to make provisions of HK\$43m as a result of the investigation.

If Cheung Kong were to take control of Allied, however, it would be seen as arguably the most positive outcome of the 13-month, HK\$46m inquiry. The investigation will have

shaken out a management which appears to have refused to play by the rules of a more tightly regulated stock market, and it will have replaced them with one of Hong Kong's most renowned deal-makers

Western Areas result boosts JCI earnings

By Philip Gawith

A STRONG performance from the Western Areas mine helped lift profit after tax and capital expenditure from the three gold mines in the Johannes-burg Consolidated Investment (JCI) group by 23.3 per cent to R72.5m (\$21.7m) in the September quarter from R58.8m in the same period last year.

Western Areas increased net profit by 70 per cent to R37.7m from R22.2m. Gold production rose for the fifth consecutive quarter, by 7.4 per cent to 4,104kg from 3,823kg, as both tonnes milled and grade increased. The average gold price received rose by 7.6 per cent to R38,091 a kg from R35,403 a kg. Unit working costs declined by 1.1 per cent

Randfontein produced 8,121kg of gold, up from 7,902kg, lifting net profits by 8.3 per cent to R37.2m from R34.4m after capital expanditure of R20m.

The Joel mine recorded a

loss of R2.5m compared with a

R2.2m profit the previous quarter. The strategy of maintaining a reduced stoping rate while increasing development to build up a sound payable ore serve is being continued. Lower volumes in the inland market and weaker prices contributed to a 35 per cent decline in attributable profit to R112.4m at Randcoal, one of South Africa's three main coal producers, in the year to Sep-tember. Earnings per share fell by 48 per cent to 87 cents fol-lowing the issue of shares. The dividend was cut by 25 per cent to 45 cents.

Indonesian property company to go public

By William Keeling In Jakawa

CIPUTRA Development, a leading Indonesian property company, yesterday announced plans to go public next month. The company expect to raise \$120m in a public offering which would value it at about \$500m. Brokers say the company

has a 14 per cent share in Jak-arta's fast-growing residential property market, and has a "landbank" in Java of 8.8m sq metres with a value of Rp1,474hn (\$695m).

The company was established in 1981 by Mr Ciputra and is currently 98 per cent owned by his family, a shareholding which will be reduced to about 75 per cent after the public offering.

Mr Ciputra is also a leading shareholder in the Jaya Group and Metropolitan Group, which account for a further 41 per cent of the Jakarta resi-dential property market. Estate agents estimate an annual demand for 100,000 new houses in Jakarta and 600,000 houses in all of Indonesia. Annual construction in Jakarta currently averages

about 50,000 houses. Since 1984, Ciputra Development has been developing a 455 hectare residential site close to Jakarta's international airport. The company is beginning construction of a 500 hectare "satellite city" at Tangerang, west Jakarta, and a 1,000 hectare residential and golf course development in Surubaya, an industrial city in West Java with a population

The company is also entering the retail property sector, having just completed a 50,000 sq metre shopping mall and a 338-room hotel complex in

Brokers say funds raised at flotation will be used to finance current development projects. The company also plans to increase its landbank to 12m sq m by the end of 1996. It forecasts a gross profit of Rp88bn on revenue of Rp242bn this year, rising to a profit of Rp161bn on revenue of Rp503bn in 1994.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE Kaufhof takes specialty message to New York

R ARELY does a chief executive of a large German company take the trouble to fly to North America to present his company to US investors; even more rarely, amid Germany's deep recession, does that chief executive have an optimistic

message to communicate. Today, when Mr Jens Ode-wald, chief executive of Kaufhof Holding, launches a series of presentations to investment institutions in New York and Boston, he will have done both. He will tell the institutions that group turnover for the

current year is set to rise by more than 10 per cent from the DM20.46bn (\$12.58bn) made last year. He has already predicted a substantial rise in earnings for the group after net profits of DM222.4m last year. The presentations will coincide with the launch of Kauf-

hof's sponsored American Depositary Receipt (ADR) programme for its shares. The retailer will become one of the handful of German companies to set up such a programme.

The move falls short of the commitment to the US invest-

ment community shown by Daimler-Benz, Germany's big-gest industrial company, which early this month obtained a full listing for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange. Kaufhof is majority-owned

by the privately-owned Swiss-based Metro Group, and the interests of institutional shareholders will always be secondary to those of Mr Otto Beisheim, proprietor of the DM60bn-plus Metro empire. However, the timing of Kaufhof's ADR programme seems

designed to prompt investors to draw parallels with Daimler-Benz – and Kaufhof will emerge favourably from the comparison, even if for accounting reasons they will not be comparing like with

When Daimler-Benz came to New York it announced a loss of DM949bn for the first six months of the year (under US accounting rules). The Cologne-based Kaufhof group is one of a small group of large German' companies which will be able to increase earnings (under German accounting rules) and turnover in 1993, the nadir of the worst recession in

David Waller on the efforts of a German retailer to launch an ADR programme in the US



Jens Odewald: has diversified away from department stores

Germany since the second world war. Among fellow mem-bers of the DAX index of 30 leading shares, only a few banks and construction companies will be able to match this

The recession has hit consumer spending hard and Mr Odewald expects the German retail sector to shrink by a real 1 to 2 per cent this year.

The group's performance has less to do with market conditions than with the strategy that the 53-year old Mr Ode-wald has pursued since he took over as chief executive in 1985. Under Mr Odewald, Kaufhof

has diversified away from department store business, which has been at the heart of the group since it was founded 115 years ago. The focus of the expansion has been specialty retailing. "There is no growth to be had out of department stores," Mr Odewald said in an interview last week. "Specialty stores on the other hand are increasing sales by 10 to 13 per

"The merchandise is the same as in a department store. but the business is far more profitable. Your costs are lower because you tend to be in a suburban area rather than the city centre, and the concentration on one market niche gives the consumer a clear answer as to why he or she should go shopping in this store rather than anywhere else."

The group began its move into the specialty sector in 1985 with the acquisition of a stake in Saturn-Elektro, a consumer electronics store based in Cologne. Following a mixture of acquisition and organic growth, sales in this segment have risen from DM270m in 1987 to an expected DM4bn to DM4.5bn this year.

Other specialty activities include Reno, a low-price shoeretailing chain, and Vobis Microcomputer, Europe's largest retailer of IBM-compatible personal computers. Kaufhof bought 50 per cent of Vobis in 1989, taking its holding to 85 per cent at the beginning of this year. Within three years, sales have grown from DM300m to DM1.5bn in 1992 and a projected DM1.8bn to

DM1.9bn for the current year. A further market segment is tourism: last year Kaufhof. bought a majority stake in Kuoni, the Swiss tourism company. Sales in this area have grown from DM200m in 1975 to some DM6bn this year.

Specialty retailing last year accounted for 28 per cent of group sales and 44 per cent of profits, while department stores generated 48 per cent of sales and 47 per cent of profit

Mr Odewald will today tell investors that specialty retailing has the potential to increase to between 35 per cent and 40 per cent of the business portfolio by 1997.

SIVEREM ENT

CNOS

He is confident that the group will maintain its resilience to the difficult consumer spending environment of the current decade. "Specialty retailing is the runner of the 1990s," he believes.

Investors appear to share that optimism. The shares have climbed by more than 35 per cent since the beginning of the year, and at DM568 yester day are 7 per cent higher than when Kaufhof announced its ADR plans earlier this month.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue

September 1993

Fiduciary issue by Chase Manhattan Bank Luxembourg S.A. to fund a loan made by it to



SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A.

CS First Boston

Deutsche Bank AG London

INVITATION FOR THE BUBMISSION OF SEALED BINDING OFFERS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MEVIOR'S SHARES HELD BY ELEVME S.A. ATY INFORMATION ON M MINING AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS - MEVIOR S.A. LOCATION: ASSIROS, Pref. Thee ACTIVITY: MEVIOR is now active in the product

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Financi Based on Balance	AL DATA sheet Dec. 31.	1992
ASSETS		
B. INSTALLATION COSTS	Drs.	60,512,881
O. FOOID ASSETS		V-,,-
I. Intengible assets		56,813,972
ii. Tangible assets		354,934,028
III. Participations		695,360
D. CUITRIENT ASSETS		300 000
I. Inventory		65,995,324
II. Receivables		66,597,115
III. Marketable Securities		16,669,151
IV. Cash	•	12,201,799
E. INTERIM ACCOUNTS		1,138,958
TOTAL ABSETS		
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		635,298,568
Share Capital		
Investment Subsidies		500,500,000
Reserves		237,197,648
Retained earnings		13,792,452
Provisions		(138,300,898)
Short-term liabilities		86,267
Interim accounts		17,473,285
		4.639.822
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		635,298,588
prom	The Court	

assessed perces shall submit a binding offer, in a sealed 393,980 shares (out of a total of 500,500 shares). It is indiffered by a guarantee letter issued by operating in Greece for the sum of 25,800,000 Drs which of the starting price of the public auction. The guarantee which can be obtained from ELEVME S.A., shall be submit a separate envelope marked "Guarantee Letter".

The offers shall be submitted on Monday, 22nd Novi a.m. and 12 noon to the notary p prefecture), Stavrouse Anastassopoulou The offers shall be opened on the same may witness the opening of the offers.

The starting price amounts to 650 Drs per sha 256,074,000 Drs (Decision of Court of App Expenses for publishing this invitation will be borne by

The bidders should also submit a letter concerning Their intentions in respect of maintaining or not or inc number of job positions Any other proposals for further developing the co such as new investments, increasing of exports etc.

To obtain the Information Brochure as well as additional data on MEVICR, those interested can apply to the liquidators of ELEVME S.A., 18 Kifissias, Marquesi, TEL: (01) 6843520 and (01) 6843529, FAX: (01) 6843527. Maroussi, October 15th, 1993 THE LIQUIDATORS

The interest payable on 21st April, 1994 against Coupon No. 22 will be U.S. \$14.834.72 per U.S. \$500,000 Noss. ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that for the Interest Period commenting

Zist October, 1983, the Notes will beer interest at the rate of 68% per sensur,

GROUP GOLD MINING COMPANIES Summerly of reports: quarter ended 30 September 1993 Randfontein Estates Quarter 30.09.93 30.06.93 Ore milled - tons (000) 2 056 1918 Yield - grame per ton Working cost 3,96 - per ton milled R107,82 - per kilogram produced R28 138 R26 169 R000 Net profit before tax BG 407 81 898 Net profit after tax 57 220 59 078 Dividend Capital expenditure 20 005 Western Areas Feetern Areas Gold Mining Company Limited Registration number sourcements 30.09.93 30.06.93 Ore milled - tons (000) 600 6,84 573 8,67 Yield - grams per ton Working cost - per ton milled - per kilogram produced R201,85 R29 511 R199.11 R000 R000 Net profit before tax 31 765 31 765 Net profit after tax 45 244 10 077 9 567 Capital expenditure 7 505 H. J. Joel H. J. Joel Gold Mining Company Limited Rentstration number 85/01/005/ne 30.09.93 30.06.93 Ore milled - tons (000) 6,01 Working cost 6,12 R193.43 R182,38 R32 174 R29 809 R000 Net profit before and after tax Capital expenditure 6 277 8311 4 050 All figures are unaudited. Quarterly reports have been mailed to the shareholders of each company. Copies of the reports may be obtained from Johannesburg

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INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

World Bank pricing more generous than expected

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THE World Bank played safe with the launch of its first D-Mark global bond, setting an indicated price range which was slightly more generous than the market had expected

The DM3bn offering of 10-year bonds will be priced today to yield between six and eight basis points over the 6 per cent German government bond due 2003. Demand was such that the bonds are likely to be priced at the lower end.

Even though the indicated range was only one basis point wider than most expectations, it sent a clear signal to the market that the World Bank was keen to attract top-quality German and international

In addition, the indicated range achieved the best pricing for a supranational issuer in the D-Mark sector since the introduction of the fixed reoffer price last year.

Joint lead managers Deutsche Bank and Salomon Brothers said the issue was several times oversubscribed. though demand from within Germany was not that strong. However, this had been expected because of the much higher yields which are available in the domestic bond market. According to initial estimates, around one-third of the

bonds were placed in east Asia, 25 per cent in the US and the remainder in Europe. International demand was also strong for Crédit Local's

FFr7bn offering of eight-year Eurobonds. Joint lead manager J.P. Morgan said around 75 per cent of the bonds were placed outside France. The bonds were priced to

yield 21 basis points over the INTERNATIONAL BONDS

9% per cent French government OAT due 2001, at the low end of the indicated price

range. When the bonds were

freed to trade, the spread remained intact. This offering replaces Credit Local's planned French franc global bond offering, the docu-mentation for which would not have been ready for another one or two months.

This delay meant that the offering could not be launched before late November or early is not the best time to raise large amounts of money, especially under a new format.

Crédit Local was not willing to wait until next year because of its large borrowing requirement, so it opted to raise the funds through an issue of Eurobonds. However, the French franc global bond offer-

ing remains open for next year.

Ireland took advantage of arbitrage opportunities available in the Euro-escudo market to raise cheap D-Marks. At the same time, it become the first foreign sovereign issuer to tap the escudo sector of the international bond market.

At the underwriting level, treland's Es15bn issue of fiveyear Eurobonds was priced to yield around eight basis points below the 12% per cent Portuguese government bond due January 1998. Euro-escudo bonds yield less

than Portuguese government bonds because they are not subject to withholding tax. However, the yield differential has narrowed considerably in recent months, on rumours, now confirmed, that Portugal planned to abolish the tax on foreign holders of its bonds.

National Treasury Manage-ment Agency said the proceeds of the issue were swapped into floating-rate D-Marks at a substantial margin below the Lon-

don interbank offered rate

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III DTLLAFE
Banca Commerciale Italianalelt
HKR International(b)(5)
Banco do Nordeste do Brasil
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National Bank of Hungery(c)
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international Finance Corp.

Republic of Ireland

FP Corporation(1)*4
Nihon Nohyaku(1)*4

SWISS FRANCS

FRENCH FRANCS Crédit Local de França

An official at Ireland's achieved a margin of between hon-resident investors. 11 and 15 basis points below IFC, the private sector arm Libor. The floating-rate of the World Bank, achieved its D-Marks would replace more expensive liabilities in that

on interbank offered rate
Libor).

Lead manager Banco Portugues de Investimento said most
Ireland is believed to have of the bonds were placed with

NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

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Final terms and non-callable unless stated. The yield spread (over relevant government bond) at leanch is supplied by the lead manager. APrivate placement. \$Convertible. \$With equity warrants, \$Floating rate note. \$Semi-annual coupon, Rt. fixed re-offer price; less are shown at the re-offer level, a) issued through Comit Finance (Jersey). Coupon pays 6-month Libor - 0.25%; minimum 5%%, modimum 8%%. b) Fixing; this week. Non-callable for 3 years subject to 150% rule, c) Fungible with outstanding \$150m isunched on 18/5/33. Plus 149 days accused interest, d) Coupon pays 55% semi-annual in 1st year and 2% + (8.55% - \$25) thereafter, where \$25 is the average of the 2-year swep offer rates for DM, FFr, L, and £. e) Priced today, t) Fixing: 25/10/83.

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aggressive dollar funding target of between 35 and 40 hasis points below Libor by swapping the proceeds of its Pta10bn offering of five-year

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Euro-convertible debenture planned by Bangkok Land

By William Barnes in Bangkok

BANGKOK Land, Thailand's biggest property group, is plan-ning to launch a \$600m Euroconvertible debenture.

Following the removal of a number of legal and fiscal obstacles last year, there have been more than 20 Euro-convertible issues from Thailand, but the Bangkok Land issue is the largest to date.

The company is to tender for a \$1bn contract to build 20km of inner-city overhead railway. Issue proceeds will be used to finance the project.

The company said the issue. convertible into Bangkok Land equity, will go ahead whether or not it wins the contract. The bonds will have a coupon of 4 per cent to 4.5 per cent and a

maturity of 10 years.
Mr Anant Kanjanapas, chief executive, said the issue "could boost the credibility of Thaiand among foreign investors". The Eurobond market has become a highly attractive method of financing for Thai companies, since the cost of bank loans in Thailand

is around 12 per cent. Last month, Bangkok Land successfully laurched a \$150m Euro-convertible debenture lead-managed by Daiwa Securi-ties. It also announced a 1-for-10 issue of warrants to existing shareholders.

Tanayong, a rival property company rum by Mr Anant's brother Mr Keree Kanjanapas,

INTERNATIONAL equity issues

has already announced a \$150m Euro-convertible debenture issue with a maturity of less than 10 years. Led by Swiss Bank Corp, it is part of a Bt6bu fundraising exercise to cover urban rail projects.

Union Finance Asia and Phatra Thanakit, two local securities houses, will co-lead an issue of Bt2.5bn of unsecured debentures with warrants and Bt750m of new shares to sunport the issues.

Tanayong is already committed to investing some \$1bn to construct an urban railway for the Bangkok Metropolitan

Gilts stage rally in wake of auction announcement

By Conner Middelmann and Tracy Corrigan in London and Patrick Harverson in New York

UK GILTS rallied across tha curve after the Bank of England announced it would not hold a gilts auction in November because of the timing of the November 30 budget. This sparked a squeeze in the futures market, where the

GOVERNMENT BONDS

long gilt future on Liffe hit a new contract high at 114.26. It ended at 114.25, up 0.21 point

on the day.
The Bank also announced the details of this month's not had time to examine the auction of £3.5bn 6 per cent Treasury Stock due 1999, next year's new five-year benchmark. While this is the largest auction amount to date, the news failed to dampen

The yield on 10-year bonds dropped from 7.12 per cent to 7.09 in late trading. However, the proposal was only starting to emerge as the market

details. There were two key items, according to Mr John Hall, European economist at Swiss Bank Corporation: a complete the news failed to dampen freeze in real wage costs prices in the intermediate from 1994 to 1995; abandon-

Merrill Lynch, "the size of the issue will have been influenced by the Bank's intention to create a liquid five-year benchmark for 1994, as well as their willingness to take advantage of speculation on rate cuts feeding demand at the short

closed. Dealers said they had

naturities, ment of wage indexation; and
According to analysts at cuts to public expenditure

GERMAN bund prices rai-

■ BELGIAN bond prices rallied late in the day on news of proposals for the social pact agreement between the government, employers and

FT FIXED INTEREST INDICES GILT EDGED ACTIVITY Out 18 Oct 15 Oct 14

rather than tax increeses "What we need to see is the agreement of the unions on the whole accord," said Mr Hall, "and there are a number of areas which still haven't been clurified."

However, assuming agreement is reached, the market should relly further. Mr Hall said he would not be surprised to see the yield spread between bunds and Belgian bonds narrow from 123 basis points to below 90 basis points over the next three months.

Dol 19 Oct 18 Oct 15 Oct 14 Oct 13 ngo High " Low" Boot Secs (IRIS) 102.66 102.95 102.72 102.70 102.81 92.20 102.95 93.28 Placed between 124.14 124.38 124.01 124.18 124.27 105.18 125.20 106.67 State 100: Covernment Securities 15/10/26; Fland Interest 128.8, 124.01 124.18 124.27 105.18 125.20 106.67 State 100: Covernment Securities high since completion: 127.40 (IVIS), low 49.18 (IVIS) Fland Interest high since completion: 127.40 (IVIS), low 49.18 (IVIS) Bit Edged Recycles 98.5 6-Day average 103.5 * SE extensy recess related 1974 105,4 103,4 lied slightly late in the day. Dealers said the Bundesbank

> the trend for lowering inflation had encouraged speculation that rates would ease. French bond prices tracked the Ger-■ LONGER-dated US Treasury prices were slightly weaker yesterday morning in the wake of a stronger-than-expected

> > By midday, the benchmark

September housing starts

report's positive attitude on

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BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT BONDS

cent. At the short end of the that housing starts rose 2.8 per market, the two-year note was unchanged at 100 k, to yield

cent in September to a 1.35m annual rate. The data was 3.824 per cent. Prices eased at the long end stronger than analysts had expected – the average of fore-30-year government bond was in early trading after the com-up \(\text{at } 105\) in yielding 5.840 per merce department announced 1.3m. casts was for an ennual rate of

ECU (French Gov) 8,000 04/03 111,4700 -0,180 8.86 6.80 8.87

London closing, "denotes New York morning session Yleids: Loos market standard † Gross annual yield (including withholding last at 12.5 per cent psychio by non-residents.)
Prices: US, UK in Stinds, others in decimal

TSE to post first profits in four years

expects to post its first profits in four years with a surplus for the six months ended September, Reuter reports from

Tokyo. Mr Minoru Nagaoka, exchange chairman, said the TSE could make a Y2.53bn profit, compared with a loss of Y2.47bn for the corresponding six months a year ago. Despite the gloomy outlook for the Japanese economy, the exchange hopes to post profits

Montreal SE president will resign in April

THE Tokyo Stock Exchange

for the whole of this year, mostly from trimming its costs, the TSE chairman said. In contrast, the Osaka Securities Exchange has posted a lose for the six-months ended September. It made a loss of Y41m following declining turnover in cash and futures lar value transactions, an official said.

MR Bruno Riverin, who took the Montreal Stock Exchange into high technology and derivative products trading, is resigning next April, when he will have completed seven years as president of the exchange, writes Robert Gibbens in Montreal.

The stock exchange, Canada's second largest after Toronto, also confirmed the resignation of vice-chairman Mr Michael Harrison, and the departure of executive vice-president Mr Giovanni Giariusso.

Mr Riverin helped promote the exchange's successful bond option market. The exchange has rebuilt

profitability, but its share of

Canadian stock trading by dol-

lar value has slipped below 20

MARKET STATISTICS

	MARKET STATISTICS					
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Strong performance from clinical laboratories

Recent drug launches help SB advance 9%

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American healthcare company, reported pre-tax profits for its third quarter to September 30 up 9 per cent from £267m to £291m.

The results were helped by currencies, a strong performance from the clinical laboratories operations and recentlylaunched pharmaceuticals.

Group sales were up 16 per cent, from £1.28bn to £1.48bn, including £11m (£61m) from discontinued activities. Operating profits improved from £270m to £280m, including £3m (£16m) from discontinued activities. Profits on continuing activities rose 9 per cent.

At comparable exchange rates, sales and trading profit increased 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Turnover at clinical laborato-

ries increased 39 per cent from £144m to £200m, while operating profits rose from £17m to £20m. At constant exchange rates, they rose 15 per cent and

Pharmaceuticals division trading profit rose 11 per cent currencies, operating profits improved 8 per cent on sales up 2 per cent

US turnover improved 1 per cent while European sales were up 3 per cent. German sales grew 1 per cent thanks to a strong performance from antibiotics in the former Rast Germany and in spite of healthcare reforms. Italian sales fell 21 per cent, although the overall market dropped only 7 per cent. Mr Robert Bauman, chief

executive, declined to detail his strategy for defending Tagamet, the ulcer treatment on which US patents expire next May. American sales represent about two thirds of Tagamet revenues, which were £614m last year. During the third quarter this year they were up 2 per cent, although this was due mostly to a US price increase in September.

The group was still discussing with the US Food and Drug Administration its possible status as a non-prescription product to be sold over the counter at chemists, said Mr Bauman. He added it remained unclear whether further data or clini-

group would differentiate OTC Tagamet from its Turns brand. which now has 46.8 per cent of the US antacid market. "Tagamet will be the first antacld with proven clinical efficacy. Tums will be targeted at the mild end of the market. There

may be some cannibalisation.

but we will do our hest to min-

imise it." he said. The animal health division benefited from restructuring and sales improved 19 per cent from £85m to £101m. Excluding currencies, turnover was up 4 per cent and trading profit 6 per cent at £17m (£14m).

Sales of continuing operations at the consumer brands division rose from £277m to £342m, while trading profits fell from £52m to £51m. Excluding currencies, sales were up 11 per cent. Operating profits dropped 2 per cent because of increased advertising and promotional support

and restructuring costs. Earnings per share rose to 7.5p and 11.3 cents per equity unit. A third quarter dividend was declared of 2.533p per share, 4.718 cents per equity

unit and 23.59 cents per equity cal trials would be necessary. Mr Bauman explained the from £171m to £189m on sales unit ADR. of £821m (£709m). Excluding

Hammerson share vote changes

By Paul Taylor

HAMMERSON, the international property investment company which is in the hands of new management, yesterday revealed terms of its offer to reform its two-tier voting structure.

Proposals for equalisation of votes between the ordinary shares and the limited voting A ordinary shares include the provision to existing ordinary shareholders of 2 new shares for every 19 held to compensate for the elimination of their superior voting rights.

The compensatory scrip will result in the allotment of 5.6m new shares, representing about 2.23 per cent of the enlarged

The proposals, which were

foreshadowed by the group when it launched its £200m rights issue in May and which are subject to shareholders' approval at a meeting on November 11, were immedi-

ately welcomed in the City. Standard Life, which is a large holder of both classes of stock and was consulted over the proposals, said it considered the terms "quite acceptable" and expressed the hope that other shareholders would also find them attractive. Like many other institutional investors, Standard Life is strongly in favour in the principle of

Hammerson's ordinary shares closed 14p higher at 413p while the A shares gained 5p to close at 374p. Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith,

chairman, said the enfranchise-

ment proposals were designed to bring the company's share structure into line with most other listed companies. "As a result, the marketability and appeal of the company's shares should increase to the benefit

of all shareholders," he said. Hammerson pointed out that in setting the terms of the compensatory scrip issue it had taken into account the market price of the two classes of shares. Over the past 12 months the premium com-manded by the ordinary shares over the A shares had ranged from 4.7 per cent to 11.3 per cent and was 8.1 per cent on Monday.

The proposals are among a package of measures introduced since Mr Ronald Spin-ney joined the group as chief

August, had been resolved.

BM Group

agrees to

By Andrew Jack

amend

accounts

BM GROUP, the construction equipment combine which over-stretched itself through acquisition, vesterday agreed to amend its accounts under pressure from the Financial Reporting Review Panel, the UK accounts watchdog.

The company incorrectly classified several items in its cash flow statement, and incorrectly described elements within exceptional profits shown for the year to June 30

It will not be required to reissue last year's accounts, but will show amended figures in its 1993 accounts.

In exchange, the panel has agreed to take no further Mr Howard Sutton, chief

executive, said: "There was a very fine dividing line between what we did and what the panel wanted. Everything was basically disclosed."

He admitted that the company kad made an "error" in interpreting FRS 1, the financlai reporting standard on the cash flow statement.

It showed bank loans including those repayable in more than five years' time— as "cash and cash equiva-lents", when FRS 1 says "cash" must be liquid assets

BM also showed as an excep-tional item profits less goodwill on the sale of companies to BB & EA, which was acquired during the year, and some of shares in which were then placed on the market. The panel said these proceeds were misdescribed.

The accounts received an unqualified opinion from Kingston Smith, the auditor. Total audit fees - including those paid to subsidiary audi-tors - were £725,000, plus 2540,000 in non-audit work by the auditors.

Kingston Smith has since been replaced as auditor to the group by Price Waterhouse which Mr Sutton said was considered by the board to be "in the best interests of shareholders" in view of the international growth of the company.

Alan Henderson, chairman,

said the full year figures

Golden Vale £5.4m

lington Food Ingredients for a

One word which shook a bank

Andrew Jack and John Gapper consider Samuel Montagu's damages.

T COULD prove the most expensive single word A answer ever given in cor-porate history. It may cost Samuel Montagu more than £180m, and was yesterday sounding alarms at other merchant banks in the City of Lon-In August 1987, Mr Ian

McIntosh, then Montagu's head of corporate finance, attended a meeting of about 30 people at the offices of Slaughter & May, the law firm representing British & Commonwealth Holdings, the financial services group.

B&C wanted a reassurance

from Montagu that its client had the money to complete a purchase. Mr McIntosh was asked and replied, simply:

Yes. The client was Quadrex, a Delaware corporation controlled by Mr Gary Klesch. It was threatening to make a rival bid for Mercantile House

Quadrex would hold back if B&C agreed to sell it Mercan-tile's wholesale broking division after the acquisition. B&C, in turn, needed the proceeds from the sale of Quadrex to allow its Mercantile bid to go

Mr McIntosh was asked to give his assurance after Quadrex said there was no time to prepare full documentation, which would require a meeting of its credit committees. But after the acquisition,

Quadrex failed to provide the cash. That ultimately helned drive B&C into administration in 1990 with debts of £1bn. On Monday Montague was

ordered to pay damages of £172m to B&C's creditors with further payments possible.

Mr John Gunn, then head of B&C and now with Midland and Scottish, yesterday recal-led the meeting that began five years of litigation. "From my



Offered assurances: Ian McIntosh, left, and Gary Klesch

lawyers I believed that an oral statement was as good as a

written contract. Mr Gunn is unrepentant about relying on that single word of assurance, "You don't need to see a loan document. A merchant bank earns its money by putting its reputa-tion at the beck and call of the client," he said.

Opinion was divided yesterday over whether the judgment would make hankers more circumspect.

One corporate financier said it would make him far more cautious about signing "highly confident" letters in which merchant banks gave assurances that their clients were able to lay hands on funds for mergers and acquisitions. "I signed one of those letters

last week, but if you put it in front of me today I would not do the same thing," he said. This was because he believed the judgment did not take full account of what Mr McIntosh meant by his reply.

He argued that an assurance that a client has funds usually means there is a credit facility in place from banks. However such credit facilities will usually contain provisions that mean that they can be withdrawn in some circumstances. "If you tell the man in the

street, funds are available, he understands that there is a pile of cash next door. But when a corporate financier says it, it does not mean quite the same. Most people in the City know that," he said.

However, other bankers argued that they would be wary about making such an unqualified verbal assurance as Mr McIntosh in a minuted meeting. It would be more common to sign a letter with a number of disclaimers and con-

"With a letter like that, you hedge it around with such a lot

of conditions that you are pro tected, quite frankly. There tend to be clauses about current market conditions, and so on," said one corporate finan-

The "highly confident" letter, pioneered by Drexel Burnham Lambert, the failed US investment bank, in the US during the 1980s takeover boom is one case of an assurance given by a merchant bank in order to allow a transaction. Another UK example is the requirement of the Takeover Panel that a compulsory takeover offer must carry a merchant bank assurance. In cases of public takeovers, the bank is protected if it has carried out inquiries diligently in good

he most notable case in which a merchant bank has come to grief over an assurance was that involving Kleinwort Benson and the 1985 purchase of House of Fraser, the stores group, by the Fayed brothers, who were Kleinwort's client.

Kleinwort was subsequently criticised by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors for allowing statements in its name that the Fayeds had sufficient funds to finance the offer, without taking adequate steps to verify the truth.

Most corporate financiers believe that the House of Fraser case, along with a general tightening of the regulatory regime, has already made them careful about giving assurances. The Samuel Montagu judgment will only mark a further push towards caution.

"I suppose it will make some sloppy operators tighten up a bit," said one. "But it is bog standard to be asked to give this sort of assurance Not many people will give them without being positive that they are telling the

Substantial premium at Virtuality

By Gary Means

THE FIRST day's trading of shares in Virtuality Group excited the City, with the price hitting 315p at one point, a subtantial premium to the placing price of

170p.
The shares finished the session at

The price of the flotation, which placed 7.43m shares to raise 29.45m for new product development, gave a market valuation of \$44.4m for the company, which designs and produces virtual reality

puter software and equipment. But the group ended the day with a much higher valuation of 275.7m.

founder, owns 10.4 per cent of the shares.

Analysis attributed the heavy trading in the shares — a total volume of 5.7m shares was traded — to several factors. One was that the placing was with some 80 institutions, and that a number of

them decided to take quick profits. Another was the considerable amount of interest generated by a strong public relations campaign; about half of the shares on offer yesterday ended up in individual rather than institutional

The interest was even more surprising considering that Virtuality has made it clear it does not intend paying dividends

Mr Jon Waldern, managing director and in the medium term, preferring to plough profits back into more research and devel-

> Motorola and IBM Europe have taken stakes of 3.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively. Apax Partners, the venture capital company, has a 50.9 per cent

Virtuality, previously known as W Industries, had turnover of 25.24m last year, with pre-tax profits of £217,000 and earnings per share of 1.1p.
Virtuality's flotation is one of a number

including Badgerline, the bus companys Gartmore, the fund manager, and the

NEWS DIGEST

Bulgin recovers to £0.28m

AF BULGIN, the Essex-based electronics components and power supplies group, reported pre-tax profits, under FRS 3, of £280,000, against £32,000, for the six months to July 31.

Turnover amounted to £7.84m (£6.58m), including a contribution of £589,000 from

Earnings per share improved to 1p (0.11p).

Venturi net asset value improves 75%

The undiluted net asset value per ordinary geared share of Venturi Investment Trust stood at 25.78p at September 30, an improvement of 75 per cent over the 14.71p standing six months earlier.

Net revenue for the half year to end-September edged ahead from £100,742 to £110,471. Earnings per income share improved to 1.84p (1.88p) and the interim dividend is lifted to 1.56p (1.46p).

IMC declines to £377,000

Pre-tax profits at IMC Industries, the USM-quoted company with interests in soft drinks, in-flight entertainment systems and blank and pre-recorded video tapes, slipped by £1,000 to £377,000 in the year to

April 30. However, turnover almost doubled to £6.13m (£3.22m). Earnings eased to 0.17p (0.18p). The company said the year had been one of consolidation.

Haemocell's new arrangements

Haemocell, the maker of medical equipment, said yesterday tt can now move "towards new distribution arrangements" in the US following the termination of an exclusive marketing agreement with Stryker Corp.

the medical products company. The company said all "out-standing issues relating to the

KLOOF

GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED

(Registration No. 64/04462/09)

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The company is pleased to announce that rescue operations

have been successfully completed following the accident at

the No. 3 Sub-Vertical Shaft of the Kloof Division of the

company on Wednesday 13 October, when pipework fell

down the shaft, Normal communications and hoisting facilities

through the shaft were rendered inoperable. Alternative routes

had to be used by rescue teams to bring those employees

working in the deepest levels of the area to safety. Tribute is

All efforts are now focused on establishing the extent of the

damage to the shaft and commencing the necessary

rectification. The period, for which underground production

from the No. 3 Sub-Vertical Shaft area will be impacted, has

Stoping teams from the affected area are being relocated

elsewhere in the mine. The milling rate has been maintained at

its planned level to date by utilising surface accumulations of

ore resulting from recent underground production rates

exceeding the milling capacity. Considerable tonnages remain

A thorough and detailed investigation into the cause of the

A member of the Gold Fields Group

Johannesburg

to continue supplementation of underground production.

due to everyone who has been involved.

vet to be determined.

accident is being conducted.

20 October 1993

termination" of the Stryker agreement, announced in

Mr David Wathen, chief executive, said he could not comment on the cost of unwinding the Stryker agreement as the Haemocell was in its close period. "Suffice it to say we are very, very happy with the arrangements in place", he

Haemocell dropped the exclusive arrangement with Stryker in August after sales targets were not met, Mr Trevor Wilson, operations director, said at the time.

Abtrust New Thai net assets at 126.35p

Abtrust New That Investment Trust had a net asset value, unadjusted for warrants, of 126.35p per share at August 31. The figure showed a marginal fall on the value of 133.02p at the trust's February year-end, but a year-on-year increase of almost 85 per cent on the corresponding 68.48p. Net revenue for the six

Golden Vale, the County Corkbased dairy products company, has agreed to acquire Haslington Cheese Company and Has-

purchase

Of the consideration, £2.5m is in cash, £1.75m in loan notes and the balance in shares -1.1m at the current share price

total of £5.35m.

New initiative for Octavian Octavian Group yesterday became the latest Lloyd's agency to announce a new investment initiative, taking advantage of the opening of the Lloyd's market to corpo-

rate capital Lazard Brothers will sponsor Nelson Lloyd's Trust, which aims to raise £60m in equity at the Lloyd's market.

to £98,857 (£129,241) but Mr **NEWS IN BRIEF**

TIOXIDE GROUP, a wholly owned subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries, has completed a \$205m (£135.7m) joint manufacturing venture with NL/Kronos at Lake Charles, Louisiana. This will provide Tioxide with its first

months to end-August dipped

BUNZL's Italian fine paper distribution subsidiary. Bunzl Italia, has withdrawn from Sicily. The move completes a shares.

rationalisation programme begun in 1992 CAVERDALE GROUP has received applications for its

by directors. WATES CITY of London has

manufacturing facility in the

open offer in respect of 13.5m new ordinary shares (70.8 per cent). The figure includes 932,749 agreed to be taken up

received acceptances for more than 94 per cent of its rights issue of 34.3m new ordinary

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corres - ponding dividend	Total for year	Total last year
Boot (Henry)int	1,7	Ngv 19	1,6	•	5.9
Edinburgh Trustint	2.95	Dec 3	2.85	-	8.4
Govett Orientalint	0.4	Dec 10	0.4	_	0.95
Jerome (S)int	0.2	Dec 10	riil	-	nii
McKechniefin	9.75	Jen 14	9.75	14.75	14.75
Paterson Zochfin	10.25	Dec 6	9.2	12.6	11.45
\$Bint	2,5331	-	2.075	-	8.6
Venturi Trustint	1.58	Nov 30	1.40	-	3.45
Woiseleyfin	9.75	Jan 31	9.46	13.3	12.55

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated, †On increased capital. §USM stock. ‡Third interim making 7.599p to date.

BOARD MEETINGS

is and the sub-divisions above below are painty on but you's twelsties.	
TODAY	
not-Almanda Workeaur, Beny Blach & Britist & American Fem, English National erning Euro Padging, Forestro Tech, Here- Hoare Govett Smaller Cos, RTT Cepital rrs, St. James'e Place Capital, Save & ir, Westelm.	

ative, we are going to start off in an ungeared position and we

end of range By Richard Gourlay

Placing values

Cantab at lower

Cantab Pharmaceuticals, the By Richard Lapper bio-technology group, said yes-terday that the placing which will bring it to the London market was fully subscribed at 460p and had raised £13.8m for

the company. The pricing was dictated by the price prevailing for the shares already quoted on New York's Nasdaq exchange where the shares were listed in 1992. The placing values Cantab at 245.3m, towards the bottom of the range that the company

Mr Paul Haycock, chief executive, said he was pleased with the placing. Together with 27m of net cash already in the company Cantab could now fund at least two years of development, the upgrading of facilities and working capital.

Cantab is some way from producing a marketable prod-uct but is closest with a drug called LM-CD45, designed to reduce the incidence of rejection in kidney transplant operations.

Last year, when Cantab came to the US market, it issued 1m shares at \$10.

estimated last month. Canadian Pizza, which forecast pre-tax profits of at least £3.15m (£2.21m) for 1993, said the £10m had originally been sarmarked to build a factory in France: "At that stage our view was that we would raise

will borrow at that particular time. So we have greatly reduced the amount of money we plan to raise", said Mr

tions with the remainder placed subject to claw back in an open offer. The last date for applications will be November 10.

brokers, offered an exit to venture capital backers, Murray Johnstone, 3i and ECI Ventures, who supported the company in a £15.5m management buy-out from its founder shareholders in May last

Independent Insurance to raise £25m through listing

INDEPENDENT Insurance, the general insurer which announced its intention to float last month, yesterday issued its pathfinder prospec-

insurer to seek a listing for at least 30 years, is aiming to raise £25m in fresh capital. Mr Michael Bright, chief executive, said the listing would help the group develop its profile among brokers, as well as providing it with cash

The company, the first

to allow it to continue expan-Apart from motor insurance, where Mr Bright Identified a growth in competitive pressure, prospects in most mar-

hets were good.

A prospectus will be issued on November 10. An offer for intermediaries closes on November 16 and dealings in the shares are expected to begin on November 22. The issue will be underwritten by Lazard Brothers and Noble

Canadian Pizza £30m tag

By Catherine Milton

CANADIAN Pizza, the Salford-based maker of pizza hases which is coming to the market this month, is likely to be valued at £30m, according to its pathfinder prospectus -£10m less than the company

the money on the market "Having done projections and cash flows, we have decided that we are cash gener-

Reg Bolton, finance director. Some of the shares, due to be priced on November 3, are likely to be placed with institu-

Canadian Pizza said the flotation, sponsored by Robert Fleming with Hoare Govett as

profits of £7.1m for the first eight months of 1993. The result was struck after a £5.2m provision for a Lloyd's stop loss policy. Net assets amounted to £59m, compared

intention to recommend a final dividend for the year of not less than 4.75p, making an 8.25p total. letter from Watsons, the actuaries, reviewing its assessment

to £49.8m at the end of 1992.

The group reaffirmed its

The pathfinder includes a of the company's reserves. The review concludes that the technical reserves are "soundly based in that, overall, they exceed our projection of the corresponding liability (net of reinsurance) based on past and small number of existing

shareholders will sell their A further reflection of confidence is that the company's existing management and staff will be buying extra sharest increasing their interest to an estimated 10 per cent of the

company. • Fenchurch Group, the insurance broker which expects to seek a stock market flotation before the end of the year, yesterday announced the demerger of its Lloyd's underwriting agency business. Underlining the change, the name of Fenchurch Underwriting Agencies will be changed to Minories Underwriting

CentreGold valued at £50m on 125p pricing

By Paul Taylor

current trends."

The group reported pre-tax SHARES IN CentreGold, which is coming to market through a placing and intermediaries offer later this month, were priced at 125p yesterday valu-ing the publisher and distributor of video games and com-puter entertainment software at £50.3m.

The Birmingham-based

group was founded 10 years ago by Mr Geoff Brown, a former teacher who is now its chief executive, CentreGold has grown rapidly, fuelled by booming sales of home entertainment software for Sega and Nintendo video games machines and

personal computers. Of the 20.6m ordinary 1p shares on offer, 12m are placed firm and another 8.59m are being placed subject to a clawback by intermediaries. Ten per cent of the shares placed subject to clawback are being made available to directors and employees. The shares on offer, repre-

senting 51.2 per cent of the enlarged issued capital, com-prise 11m existing shares and 9.6m new shares. Mr Brown is selling 3.95m shares but will retain a 35 per cent stake in the group following the flota-The new shares will raise an

will be used to redeem loan The balance will provide additional working capital to support ongoing development and enable the group to take

estimated £11.2m net for the

company of which £600,000

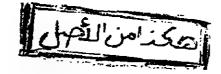
advantage of new opportuni-For the year to July 31 Cer treGold achieved a 60 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.72m (£1.7m) on turnover ahead 23 per cent to £68m (£55.1m). Earnings per share were 5.58p and the notional

dividend was 2p. The historic p/e multiple at the offer price is 22.2 and the notional gross dividend is 2 per cent. Dealings in the shares begin on October 28.

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Charies 30' Cbbet Met Tel: 6 Fax 6



COMPANY NEWS: UK

Cost controls and introduction of new products behind advance

McKechnie improves to £24.5m

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Side -

THE INTRODUCTION of new products and tight cost controls helped McKechnie, the international plastics and metal components group, increase pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £24.5m in the year to July 31.

The Midlands-based group said that the growth, achieved on turnover ahead 10 per cent to £314.4m, was due to focused management rather than improving economic condi-

Mr Michael Ost, chief executive, said: "Current trading is showing only patchy improve-ment and we believe it will be the second half of our financial year before any significant upturn in economic activity can be expected."

Profits before interest increased from £23.3m to £25.2m, although operating profits in the key plastics business fell from £8.5m to £5.9m. The decline, more than offset by improvements in consumer and specialist products, was blamed on a £224,000 loss on US operations compared with a 22.2m profit last time.

Mr Ost said the poor performance in the US was due costs" which totaled £2.3m.

By James Budon,

Soottish Correspondent

idend from 2.85p to 2.95p.

FT-A All-Share Index.

gilts portfolio.

EDINBURGH investment Trust

yesterday announced a 3.5 per

cent increase in its interim div-

Net asset value at the end of

September was 322.5p, against

300.8p six months earlier, a rise of 7.2 per cent, compared with

an advance of 7 per cent in the

EIT, the second largest

investment trust in the UK,

said the increased dividend

reflected income from its large

dividend growth from its

In addition there was strong



Michael Ost: current trading showing only patchy improvement

and weak volume sales.

Management restructuring in the US, costing £1.1m, was included in "net one-time

accelerated payment of UK div-

idends by many companies for

Net revenue for the six

months to September 30 was

£17m (£13.4m) for sarnings per

share up 26 per cent to 5.77p

However, Dunedin Fund

Managers, the trust's manager, said the rate of increase

was unlikely to be sustained over the full year, although

earnings were expected to be

ahead of last year's total of

9.25p.
EIT had 88.3 per cent of its equity holdings invested in the

compared with 88.8 per cent six

EIT matches benchmark

with 7% net assets rise

tax ressons.

redundancies and a £700,000 loss on foreign exchange trans-

exposure to US stocks from 5.2

the recovery in US corporate

profits was still uncertain.

Pacific Rim.

per cent to 4 per cent, believing

The funds were reinvested in

At the end of the six months

Japan and the rest of the

EIT had 2.9 per cent (2.7 per cent) of its equity portfolio in continental Europe, 3.5 per

cant (2.5 per cent) in Japan and 1.3 per cent (0.8 per cent) in the

Gross revenue rose to \$30.5m

(£24.8m), helped by investment

income shead at £29.7m

(£20.9m). That was partly offset

by a fall in interest on deposits

rest of the Pacific basin.

Gearing increased from 2 per

mainly to restructuring costs These included £1.6m on

COMMISSION

products.

Savage contributed £1.2m to

pre-interest profits in the

10 weeks following its

McKechnie also purchased

Accord Industries, the New Zealand machine retailer, for

£1.3m and, since the year end,

Phipps International, the Aus-

tralian architectural hardware

manufacturer, for £5m.

Mr Ost said the acquisitions

in Australasia reflected the

group's determination to exploit markets in the Pacific

Rim, where pre-interest profits

increased 46 per cent to

Although borrowings

added. "We're in a position to

make both large and small

Earnings per share advanced

from 19.7p to 21.4p. An unchanged final dividend of

9.75p maintains the total at

By focusing on its core activities McKechnie has managed to come through the UK recession, but adverse trading con-ditions - especially in plastics - means it is still having to squeeze margins and costs. It is looking at new acquisitions in Europe but is unlikely to proceed before the end of 1994. Forecast pre-tax profits of £31m next year put the shares, down 18p at 432p, on a multiple of 17.7. Although the strong balance sheet and low gearing

makes them a safe investment

the company's strategy envis-

profitability.

Henry Boot African side gives boost bucks trend in building with £2.4m age Group, the UK manufac turer of home improvement

lly Catherine Militon

HENRY BOOT, the Sheffieldbased construction and property company, continued to defy its debilitated sector by lifting pre-tax profits from £2.21m to £2.35m for the six months to June 30.

The shares, which have out-performed the construction sector since late 1989, eased 1p to 269p, continuing a decline from their May peak of 283p. Earnings per share climbed

to 6.3p (5.7p). The board declared an interim dividend of 1.7p (1.6p) on the strength of results so far, but said it saw little evidence of recovery. Mr Jamie Boot, managing director, warned the government not to cut public spend ing in next month's budget: "it is crucial for the industry not to suffer a reduction in public expenditure on the infrastructure as the private sector is still very uncertain."

Turnover rose to £64.7m (£51.1m), reflecting improved volumes in construction and spasebuilding operations. Pre-tax margins fell to 3.63 per cent (4.32 per cent). Mr Boot said the increase in turnover had not been matched by price rises. Lower interest rates meant a reduced return

on cash balances of £14.5m (£11.4m). This had been offset by improved trading profits, Mr Boot said housebuilding reservations and completions were up on the previous half year and would remain buoy-

ant in the full 12 months. Civil engineering volumes were up by about 20 per cent on the previous half year and would finish shead of the preages only slow organic growth vious full year in spite of an expected weaker second half. rather than a swift upturn in

to Paterson Zochonis

By Peggy Hollinger

PATERSON Zochonis, the detergents and Cussons soap manufacturer, announced a 7 per cent increase in annual profits, from £26.7m to £28.6m pre-tax, helped by a strong contribution from Africa and a £3m increase in investment

Mr Alan Whittaker, finance director, said strong advances in most of the group's international businesses had helped to offset a decline in Greece. Sales for the group as a whole were 3 per cent higher at £233.4m, against £227.3m.

At the operating level, Paterson showed a 24 per cent fall to £12.3m for the year to May 31. However, 1992's figures had been flattered by a £7.3m debt repayment from the Nigerian ahead 39 per cent. Mr Whittaker said the Afri-

can businesses had benefited from a stable Nigerian currency and higher sales. Profits from associated companies, mainly in Nigeria, more than doubled from £2.7m to £5.6m. The UK exporting business benefited from higher sales to

the Middle East and eastern Europe. In Greece, bumper olive harvests hit olive oil prices, leaving that business with lower profits. During the year, Paterson also made its first acquisition

in three years with the £3.2m purchase of a recently-privatised Polish detergents manu-

This business, with estimated annual turnover of some

lying 1993 operating profits of the Polish powder detergents market, had contributed a small profit for the two months it was included. The capacity over three years with a £4.75m investment pro-

> Mr Whittaker said the acquisition had "whetted our appetite for more in eastern war chest, with investments in equities and currencies totalling £167.1m and a further £2.4m in cash. The buoyant stock market belned investment income rise by £3.1m to

The final dividend la increased to 10.25p for a total of 12.6p (11.45p). Earnings were ahead 6 per cent at 35.83p

Kenwood expands with £4.3m buy

KENWOOD Appliances, the Hampshire-based household appliance manufacturer, has paid \$4.33m cash for Precision Engineering (Read-

ing).
The purchase includes Waymaster, Precision's

operating subsidiary, and Precision Reinforced Fibres, an associated company. In addition to the purchase price dividends

totalling £370,000 were paid to the vendors prior to completion. The acquisition will be funded by additional borrowings.

Waymaster is a manufacturer of water filters

and is also an established brand in kitchen scales. The company currently supplies filter cartridges to Kenwood.

For the year to end-December 1992 Waymaster returned profits before exceptionals of £417,000 on sales of £8.8m.

The acquisition should give a small lift to Kenwood's net earnings in the current year. Mr Tim Parker, chief executive, said: "Waymaster brings important strategic benefits and significant opportunities for increased manufacturing

S Jerome returns to the black

turnover enabled S Jerome & Sons (Holdings), the West Yorkshire-based spinner and weaver, to return pre-tax prof-its of £25,000 for the six months to June 30, against losses of

The company is returning to

interim, its first payment since

The comparative figure included £153,000 profits from its electronics business sold

Barnings per share came out at 0.2p (losses 0.08p). The company said that it had received a claim from the pur-

chase of its electronics comlast year. Turnover was 212.2m pany but it was impossible at (221.5m). Turnover for continuing activities was £10.8m with any liability.

Govett Oriental assets up 30%

THE STRONG performance of Far Eastern stock markets helped Govett Oriental Investment Trust to increase net assets per share by 30 per cent over the six months to Septem-

At 341,01p per share the net asset value was 83 per cent higher than the 186.3p of a year

The result makes it the best performing investment trust in its sector of Far East, including Japan, over the year to October 1, based on mid-market to mid-market valuations with

ing to Micropal. Mr Charles Fowler, who manages the trust, said the geographical split of assets at the end of September was Japan (25 per cent), Malaysia (13.3), Singapore (12.6), Hong Kong (12.5), Korea (9), Indonesia (5.7), Taiwan (4.6), Thailand (4.4), Australia (3.8), UK (3.3), Philippines (3.1), India (1.0) and others (3.5).

high weightings in Malaysia,

net income reinvested, accord-

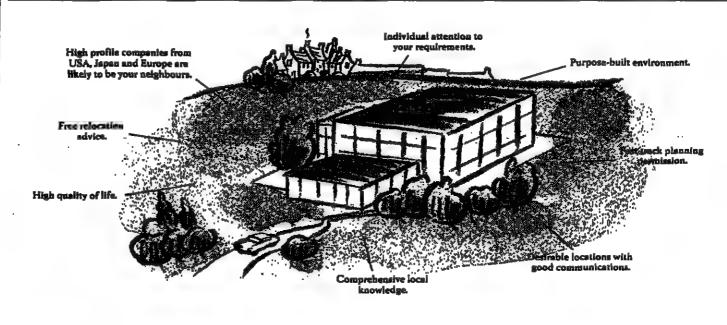
Total net assets at the end of

The trust's performance during the year benefited from the

Singapore and Indonesia, accordingly to Mr Fowler, although he has gradually reduced his holdings in those rapid rise in share prices.

September were 2612.7m, making Govett Oriental one of the UK's largest investment trusts. Revenue attributable to shareholders in the six months to the end of September was £1.81m, against £1.77m, equivalent to earnings per share of

The interim dividend is maintained at 0.4p.



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The Financial Times plans to publish this survey on Wednesday, November 24.



his survey will be of interest to the 37%* of senior business people in Ireland who are FT readers and will reach over a million FT readers worldwide.

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Lide 3mth metal (\$ per tonne)

Souther Octas branch

factors associated with a previ-

ous sharp fall in copper prices. Both CLR and the LME have

agreed to provide no further

comment on or illumination of

this agreed statement. But the

incident gives some clues

about how the exchange can head off what it calls "undesir-

able" situations in its metals

markets and stop manipulation

It paved the way in April

1991 with the introduction of

when necessary.

By Kenneth Gooding, Mining Correspondent

THE DEVASTATING economic disruption to the aluminium market caused by the collapse of the former Soviet Union may well be beyond the resources of the world aluminium industry to handle.

This warning was given last night by Mr David Morton, chairman of Alcan Aluminium of Canada, the second-biggest producer of the metal. "Unless the problem is tackled on a concerted and negotiated basis. the current conditions are likely to persist and bring this industry to its knees," he said. He pointed out that, follow-

ing a surge in annual exports from the Commonwealth of Independent States to about 1m tonnes - three to four times what they were in 1990 western stocks had grown to ernments to establish some

dropped by about half. Most of the world's aluminium smelters were operating a below even their cash costs. The western industry had

already made production cuts of 1.4m tonnes a year - nearly 10 per cent of its capacity - yet stocks continued to accumulate at the rate of 1.8m tonnes a year. "Thus, against a background of slow growth in demand, a correction to this surplus by western world producers would require a further cut back of about 15 per cent to 20 per cent of its production capacity - a staggering

Speaking at the annual dinner of the UK Aluminium Federation in London, he added: "I believe it may require western governments to jointly pursue negotiations with the CIS gov-

2m tonnes and prices had rules of transition which will enable the CIS aluminium industry to be integrated into the world industry on the same terms and conditions on which western producers now oper-

The European Commission's recent decision to impose restrictions on CIS aluminium imports, was of little or no use, Mr Morton said. "This merely diverts the problem. When you are filling a bath, it does not matter from which end you fill it. What matters is the level of the bathwater."

He was speaking two days before multilateral talks are to begin in Moscow about the issue of CIS aluminium exports - figures of 1.5m to 2m tonnes are being mentioned for this year - and how the world industry might make production adjustments to help absorb stocks.

Poultry producers join Barley subsidy Blair House revisionists

we are having to pay prices

way above the world market for feedstuffs," said Mr Peter

Bradnock, director-general of

the British Poultry Meat Feder-

The withdrawal of export refunds would affect around 40

per cent of the EC's 480,000 tonnes of exports outside the

community. It would make it

extremely difficult for producers to compete in many mar-

kets overseas since high feed

costs account for almost 60 per

cent of their production costs.

Europe's main poultry pro-ducers in France, the UK and

Italy have agreed to lobby their

national governments on the

meet Mrs Gillian Shephard,

agriculture minister, today to

discuss the export business.

we could obtain supplies of

feedstuffs at world prices for

our export stock," said Mr

Bradnock. The industry also

reduced more gradually over

wants the export refunds to be

'We'd like a mechanism where

EUROPEAN POULTRY producers are lining up behind French farmers' calls for amendments to the Blair House agreement which they say inadvertently penalises

The Blair House agreement, which was agreed as part of Uruguay Round talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, requires cuts in cereals subsidies of 21 per cent over 6 years. It also means cuts in export refunds awarded to European Community poultry producers when they export outside the community.

Export refunds, which at ent amount to some 15p a Ib for fresh and frozen chickens, are to compensate EC producers for the cost of buying grain for feed at high prices. EC grain subsidies ensure that community prices are higher than the world market.

"Poultry producers do not receive direct income or production support from the government under the CAP, but the 6 year period.

angers Australia By Nikki Tait in Sydney

AUSTRALIAN government yesterday protested strongly against the US authorities' decision to extend its "export enhancement" subsidy programme for barley to China, a key export market for Australian growers.

The barley programme has been set at 3.375m tonnes, allocated across 14 countries and regions, and will be effective until September next year. Two of the countries - China, allocated 100,000 of malting barley, and Romania - were not previously eligible for EEP subsidies on barley.

"The inclusion of China, Australia's most important market for malting barley, is a particularly unhappy development," said Mr Gareth Evans, the Australian Foreign Affairs minister, and Mr Michael Lee. acting minister for Primary Industries and Energy in a

Australia shipped some 400,000 tonnes of malting barley to China in 1993-93, about half its export total.

MINOR METALS PRICES

Prices from Metal Bulletin (last week's in brackets).

ANTIMONY: European free market 99.6 per cent. S per tonne, in warehouse, 1,570-1,615

house, 2.30-2.50 (same). CADMIUM: European free market, min. 99.5 per cent. 8 per Ib, in warehouse, 0.39-0.44.

BISMUTH: European free

COBALT: MB free market, 99.8 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 11.60-12.15 (11.80-12.20); 99.3 per cent. S per lh. in warehouse, 10.70-11.25 (10.80-11.30). MERCURY: European free

market, min. 99.99 per cent. \$

per 76 lb flask, in warehouse. MOLYBDENUM: European free market, drummed molybdic oxide, \$ per lb Mo, in warehouse, 2.52-2.62 (same).

SELENIUM: European free market, min 99.5 per cent, \$ per ib in warehouse 4.45-5.25. TUNGSTEN ORE: European free market, standard min. 65 per cent. \$ per tonne unit (10 kg) WO_s, clf, 27-37 (same).

V₂O₅, clf, 1.30-1.45 (same). URANIUM: Nuexco exchange value, \$ per lb, U_aO_s, 6.90

No.7 THE SPARE - LCH

Close

0000A - LQS

Barley

107.25

Turnover: Wheat 245 (165) Barley 34 (10)

11.05 10.92

ner 1036 (137) lots of 50 tonnes.

Previous High/Low

11.06 10.89

VANADIUM: European free

Aluminium industry 'needs | 'Fine' deepens copper 'squeeze' mystery

Kenneth Gooding on the aftermath of alleged London Metal Exchange manipulation

N EXTRAORDINARY Copper coda to the "squeeze" on the London Metal Exchange's copper market has raised more questions rather than providing satisfactory answers. The supply squeeze was maintained through June. July and August amid widespread suggestions that the market was being manipulated to keep the copper price up. Last week, in an unprece-

dented move, Credit Lyonnaise Rouse, part of the French banking group, apologised to the LME for its part in the squeeze and said it had paid £100,000 towards exchange's costs.

This is a large enough sum for traders refer to it as a

They are also pointing out that CLR's long list of blue chip clients includes Sumitomo Corporation, for which CLR acts as clearing broker. At the height of the squeeze traders suggested that Sumitomo was mainly responsible and had options on most of the LME copper stocks. Mr Yasuo Hamanaka, the senior Sumltomo manager responsible for copper trading, denied any manipulation was going on and said the tightness was caused by complex technical limits. These highly-confidential

reports, seen by only very senior members of the LME's secretariat, give advance warning of squeezes and attempts to manipulate the market. Mr David King, LME chief executive, explained at the time: "The idea is to give the exchange a better understanding of what is taking place in the market. It is in line with our statutory obligation to maintain an orderly market and shows our determination to keep the market orderly while sticking to our fundamental principal of not inter-

During the recent copper squeeze the LME board issued two public warnings but to no avail. Then on September 8 the board decided to take action in anticipation of the development of an undesireable situa tion in the copper market," and limited the daily backwardation (premium for immediate delivery over forward prices) to

fering

with free market

its so-called "large postion 25 a tonne. reporting system" where trad-There have been previous are required to report to squeezes in LME metals marthe LME daily any futures and kets but never before has the options positions, held for their exchange felt it necessary pubown or named clients licly to reprimend or to seek

CLR's apology illustrates an important point; while the LME does not have the power to control the activities of some of the large organisations with deep pockets that use its metals markets, that business eventually has to be cleared with an exchange member and the LME does have the right to force an exchange member to toe the line.

This message will not have been lost on the LME's other 16 ring-dealing members.

tonnes		
Alambiam	+12,225	to 2,250,2
Copper	+2,450	to 603,700
Lead	-1,575	to 288,650
Nackel	+54	to 118,494
Zinc	+1,375	to 814,500
Tin	-95	to 20,570

The question remains: what did CLR do to upset the LME so much?

In the agreed statement CLR apologised for its involvement in the development of the situation in the copper market" and added, "CLR accepts that that situation could have been interpreted as involving an undue influence over the market but CLR took no action because it was satisfied no

accounts, that exceed certain apology from any of the organisuch undue influence was or

So was it simply a simple case of human error, misunder standings and crossed wires? This is hard to believe because although CLR became a ring. dealing member of the LMR as recently as January this year, the Rouse organisation has a long history in commodity

markets. However, traders recall that during the squeeze CLR was giving the copper market some liquidity by lending to the market and it maybe CLR believed that was enough to prevent an "undesirable" situation devel-

The LME executive undoubt edly spent some money investigating what it must have first thought of as a nefarious scheme, but the £100,000 CLR is contributing towards fixese costs is undoubtedly generous - hence traders' view that it was a fine. However, in view of the LME's determination firmly to close the book on this issue, we will probably never

Mr King said yesterday: "We worked in close consort with other regulators on this and both they and we are satisfied with the outcome. The matter

Crunch time in the world nuts market

Alison Maitland on shortages that are driving up almond, peanut and hazlenut prices

HEN YOU buy your box of mixed nuts this Christmas, you could find it contains en unusually large proportion of Brazil nuts. Look carefully the simonds, hazeinuts end even peanuts could be on the

The reason is a rare coincidence of problems in the nut market that has caused a near doubling in the prices of almonds and peanuts and a sharp, though alightly less dramatic, rise in the cost of hazal-

"In most years we'll get one of our markets thrust into turmoil because of some supply side problem or a political problem," says Mr Peter Morgan, edible nut trader for London importers Barrow, Lane and Ballard. "To have so many of them up in arms is

Mr Morgan's company handles about 40,000 tonnes of peanuts a year, buying from around the world for customers mainly in the UK, the

Canada. The price of American

Close

1091-89

, 99.7% purity (5 per tonne)

to a peak of \$1,500 following this summer's drought, which particularly affected growing regions in the south-western states of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia

Alahama. Prices have settled back slightly to around \$1,450 a tonne, but that is still way out of proportion to the actual shortfall in US production of about 15 per cent, says Mr

The distortion arises from the US quota system, under which three-quarters of the harvest are purchased from farmers at high support prices for the domestic market. The remainder receives lower support prices and goes for crushing or export.

The harvest is expected to be down about 300,000 tonnes on the usual level at about 1.7m tonnes. But because farmers will sell for the domestic market first, exports are likely to drop by some 60 per cent, Mr Morgan says.

Buyers are beginning to turn such as Argentina and China, where supplies are available at peanuts shot up from about prices about \$200 and about \$300 a tonne in the early spring \$400 a tonne respectively less than those for US produce. Interestingly, given the exis-tence of the North American Free Trade Agreement, some Canadian buyers are switching from American to Chinese pea-

nuts, even though the latter

are regarded as being of lower

"This is the fifth year since 1980 when we've had a real or false alarm," says Mr Morgan. "Til have too many grey hairs if it goes on much longer.

Peanuts are particularly important for snacks and cocktail "eats", as well as being ingredients in confectionery and peanut butter, Almonds and hazelnuts are vital for the baking and confectionery industries, with almonds particularly used by the huge mar-zipan market in Germany and the Netherlands.

o all sectors of the nut-processing industry have been affected. Almond prices have been

pushed sky-high by problems with the crop in California, the shortfall of 50m lb from a normai crop of about 560m Ib and sent prices soaring from about

Prices supplied by Amaigameted Metal Tracing) AM Official Kerb close Open Interest

23,500 a tonne in early August to about £4,000 a tonne, twice the level a year ago, according the nut operation for Combined Shipping and Trading, a London-based commodities

trading company.
"I think it's gone too high on the evidence of that news," says Mr Newson. "We're finding strong consumer resistance. These high levels have come as a boit from the blue." Hazelnut prices have been rising on expectations of a poor crop in Turkey, which pro-

European growing countries, Italy and Spain. Harvesting starts this month and in September prices shot up from about £1,800 a tonne to as much as £3,000 a tonne, sefore settling back to about

duces about 70 per cent of

world supply, and in the main

"It was a wild situation," says Mr Newson. "I can't remember prices spiralling to that sort of level in such a

short time." The irony is that Turker about 130,000 tonnes, appar-

pressing them to release some of that crop to assist the market." Mr Newson says.

Among other nuts, cashew prices are beginning to rise because of fears of a shortfall in the forthcoming Brazilian harvest, and macadamias, increasingly popular as an exotic cocktail nut, have been driven up in the past six months by crop problems. Brazils, on the other hand, remain

relatively cheap. But the Christmas box of mixed nuts is unlikely to reflect these price increases because processors tend to have forward cover until about January or February, accord-

ing to commodity experts. That is when consumers could start to feel the crunch. "It's very difficult to get price increases pre-Christmas," says Mr Yoav Gottasman, chief executive of JLI Group, the UK food processing group, "But most supermarkets are aware that prices will have to move

The impact of the devaluation of the pound - because Wind damage has caused a sitting on a buffer stock of most nuts are traded in dollars - and of the absolute price ently waiting for higher prices.
"The European Community is double whammy."

WORLD COMMODITIES PRICES

MARKET REPORT

The GOLD price recoiled from resistance just below \$369 a troy ounce yesterday afternoon. But after subsiding by nearly \$5 it recovered to close in London at \$367, just 50 cents down on the day. Dealers attributed the retreat to long-liquidation by US investment funds following Monday's raily. PLATINUM ended within \$1.25 of the day's high. closing at \$372 an ounce, after finding support below \$370. The London afternoon fix had been at \$373.25 an ounce, up \$6.30 from the same point on Monday, although dealers noted that there was little physical business being

London Markets

SPOT MARKETS

Orude oil (per barrel POB)(Dec)			
Dubal	\$14.85-4.950	+0.01	
Brent Blend (deted)	\$16.54-6.56	+0.03	
Brent Bland (Dec)	\$16.94-6.98		
W.T.J (1 pm est)	\$18.30-8.32:	+0.005	
Oil products (NWE prompt delivery per t	onne GIF	+ 01 -	
Premium Gesoline	\$190-192	4	
Gas Oil	\$175-176	-1	
Heavy Fuel Oil	\$61-83		
Naphtha	\$1 59 -161		
Petroleum Argus Estimatus			
Char		+ 05 -	
Gold (per troy oz)-	\$367.00	-0.5	
Silver (per troy oz)	438.5c	-6	
Platinum (per troy ce)	\$373.25	+6.3	
Palladium (per troy oz)	\$132.75	12.25	
Copper (US Producer)	85.0c	-0.5	
Lead (US Producer)	33.50c		
Tin (Kusio Lumour marketi	12.25m	+0.10	
Tin (New York)	222.5c		
Zinc (US Prime Western)	Unq		
Cattle (Ive weight)	117,47p	+1.76*	
Sheep (live weight)†	90.68p	+1.46*	
Pigs (live weight)†	64.81p	+1.75*	
London daily sugar (raw)	\$258.80	-7.2	
London daily sugar (white)	\$288.00	-8	
Tate and Lyle export price	E284.50	34	
Barley (English feed)	Ung		
Malze (LIS No. 3 yellow)	£120.0		
Wheat (US Dark Northern)	£166.5		
Rubber (Nov)®	60.00p		
Rubber (Dec) V	60.25p		
Rubber (KL RSS No 1 Jul)	205.0m		
Coconut of (Philippines)§	\$430.0v	+5	
Palm Oii (Maloyolari)§	\$342.5u		
Copra (Philippines)§	5270.0		
Solvabeans (US)	£109.0	+1.5	
AND AND PARTY OF THE PARTY OF T	E4 CO	712	

Woottops (64s Super) 324p E a tonne Unices otherwise stated, p-pençales, c-cents/fb. r-inggit/kg. z-Nov v-Jan/Feb u-Dec t-Sep/Oct #London physical, §CIF Rotterdem, & Bullion market close, m-Malaystan cents/kg. &Sheep

done. At the London Metal Exchange the COPPER market extended its decline, reaching 6-veer lows before steadying little to close at \$1,632.50 for three months metal, down \$25 on the day. The market remained bearish on fundamental and technical grounds, dealers said, and the likelihood was that the price would head for \$1,600 soon. The NICKEL market continued the retreat that has followed the recent rally, the three months price closing another \$95 down at \$4,570 a tonne. But it was still \$440 above the recent Compiled from Reuters

CRUIDE OIL - LPE

		et Provid	us High/Low			
Date	16.9	6 1662	17.03 18.87			
Jan	17.7	5 1702	17-21 17.12			
Peb	17.3	0 1718	17.35 17,27			
	17.4	1730	17,44 17,35			
Apr	17.5	1741	17.54 17.47			
No.	17.8	1745	17.62			
PE Ind	esi 16.9t	5 1708				
	x 13042 (1	9668				
aas o	H IPE		\$4			
	Cices	Previous	High/Low			
Nov	169.25	170.25	170.75 169.00			
Dea	169.50	170.50	171.00 169.25			
Jen	189.50	170.00	170.50 169.00			
	168.50	189.25	169.50 168.00			
Feb	168.50 167.00	189.25 167.75	169.50 168.00 167.75 167.50			
Feb Var	-					
Feb Mar Jun	167.00 183.00	167.75 163.50	167.75 187.50			
Fets Mar Jun Turngve	167.00 183.00	167.75 163.50	167.75 187.50 164.00 163.00			
Fets Mar Jun Turngve	167.00 183.00 r 14642 (9	167.75 163.50	167.75 187.50 184.00 163.00			
Feb Mar Jun Turnove BUGAR	167.00 183.00 r 14642 (9	167.75 163.50 356) lots of	167.75 167.50 164.00 163.00 100 tonnes 6 per te			
Feb Mar Aun Furnove BUGAR	167.00 163.00 r 14642 (9 Leitest	167.75 163.50 356) lots of Previous	167.75 187.50 184.00 163.00 7 100 tonnes (\$ per to			
Feb Mar Jun Furnove BUGAR	167.00 163.00 r 14842 f9 Latest 278.00	167.75 163.50 356) lots of Previous 276.40	167.75 187.50 184.00 183.00 100 tonnes (6 per to High/Low 278.50 278.00			

Turnover 891 (1872) Paris- White (FFr per tonne): Dec 1612.30 Mer 1816.12					
COTTON LIVERPOOL-No spot or shipment sales were					
recorded for the week ended 15 October					
against 32 tonnes in the previous week. Activ- ity was severely restrained and business was					
on narrow lines, Cost of raw cotton deterred users from increasing their purchases					
JUTE					
C and F Dundse; BTC US\$365, BWC US\$ 385,					
BTD US\$ 940, BWD US\$380, C and F Ant- werp; BTC US\$ 360, BWC US\$ 360, BTD US\$					
390, BWD US\$ 330.					

						offne)
	Close	Property lies	High/Low		Gash 3 3 months 3	81.5 -82 85-98
Des	925	916	925 912		Nickel (5 per	
Mar	952	944	955 942			512-17
No.	957	850	962 952			565-75
Jul Sep	956 960	954 957	963 957 964 966		Tin (5 per ton	ne)
Dec	947	944	R54 947		Cash 4	838-42
Mer	951	942	960 948			828-00
MARY.	954	948	958 955		Zinc, Special	
Jul	965		962 956			24-25 41-42
		138)iots of	10 tonnes per tonne). De	illy mica	LME Closing SPOT: 1.4915	
for Oct	18 905.0 78 @10.71	1 (908.92) 1	day average	for Oct	LIME AM OTTO	ial C/S a
	•				POSSOCIA BRI	
COPPL	E - LOE			Shorte	(Prices supplie	
	Closu	Previous	High/Low		Gold (troy oz)	\$ price
Nov	1206	1201	1200 1100		Close	368.75-
Jan	1225	1216	1242 1205		Opening Sx	368.30- 368.85
Mar	1210	1198	1220 1180		Afternoon for	366.40
May	1187	1194	1217 1180		Day's high	389.00- 384.50-
Turnove	r: 4099 /4	775) lots of	5 tonnes		Day's low	
ICO Indi	leater price	ea (US cents	per pound) to		Loco Ldn Me	en Gold
	daily 69.7	0 (67.57) 1	5 day averag	e 67.40	((00000)	2.74
(87,48)					2 (1021)	2.70 2.65
POTAT	1003 - LO			E/tonne	Silver fix	D/200 0
	Close	Previous	High/Low		Spot	299.00
					3 months	302.95
Mär	117.5	120.0	125.0 125.0		8 months	306.80
Apr May	90.0 103.8	87.6 101.9	90.0 88.5 103.7 102.0		12 months	314.75
<u></u>		lots of 20 t			GOLD COMS	
1GIIGIG	1 23 (522)	IOE OF 20 C	Oranes.			\$ pric
FR TICA	it - LCE		\$10800	ex point	Krugerrand	370.00
				ex posit	Maple leaf	377,10
	Ċţ099	Previous	High/Low		New Sovereign	86.00-
Cct	1353	1363	1355 1060		TRADED OPT	
Nav Dec	1368 1365	1388 1390	1385 tass 1386 1385			
Jan	1368	1101	1385 1365		Aluminium (99.	7%)
Acr	1385	1403	1382 1380		Strike price \$ 1	conne D
ja .	1216	1230	1220		1100	2
Cor	1390		1400		1125	1
BA					1150	5
	1373	1377				
Turnove	1373 222 (218				Copper (Grade	<u> </u>
Turnove					Copper (Grade	5
	222 (218				Copper (Grade 1600 1650	5 2
ORAIN:	222 (218 - LCE)		E/torne	Copper (Grade	5
ORAINS Wheat	222 (218 - LCE Cless	Previous	High/Low		Copper (Grade 1600 1650	5 2
GRAZNS Wheat Nov	222 (218 - LCE Gloss 99.90	Previous	High/Low 101.00 99.90	_	Copper (Grade 1600 1850 1700	59 2 11
GRAINS Wheat Nov Jan	222 (218 - LCE Close 99.90 101.85	Previous 100.60 102.35	High/Low 101,00 99,90 102,90 101,8	5	Copper (Grade 1600 1850 1700 Coffee LCE 1150 1200	5 2 1
GRAINS Wheat Nov Jan	Close 99.90 101.95 103.50	Previous 100.60 102.35 104.05	High/Low 101,00 99,90 102,90 101,8 104,50 103,5	5 5	Copper (Grade 1600 1850 1700 Coffee LCE 1150 1200 1250	5 2 1 1
GRAZNS Wheat Nov Jan War May	Close 99.90 101.85 103.50 105.25	Previous 100.60 102.35 104.05 708.00	High/Low 101.00 98.90 102.90 101.8 104.50 103.5 108.40 105.5	5 5	Copper (Grade 1600 1850 1700 Coffee LCE 1150 1200	5 2 1 1
GRAZNS Wheat Nov Jan War May	Close 99.90 101.95 103.50	Previous 100.60 102.35 104.05	High/Low 101,00 99,90 102,90 101,8 104,50 103,5	5 5	Copper (Grade 1600 1650 1700 Coffee LCE 1150 1200 1250 Cocce LCE	55 22 11 N S6 15
GRAINS Wheat Nov Jan	Close 99.90 101.85 103.50 105.25	Previous 100.60 102.35 104.05 708.00	High/Low 101.00 98.90 102.90 101.8 104.50 103.5 108.40 105.5	5 5	Copper (Grade 1900 1850 1700 Coffee LCE 1750 1200 1250 Cocce LCE	55 22 111 NN 56 15
GRAINS Wheat Nov Jan Har May Barley	Close 99.90 101.95 103.50 105.25 Close	Previous 100.60 102.35 104.05 708.00	101.00 98.90 102.90 101.6 104.50 103.5 108.40 105.5 High/Low	5 5	Copper (Grade 1600 1650 1700 Coffee LCE 1150 1200 1250 Cocce LCE	55 22 11 N S6 15

	091-9 112-1			2.5-03.3 3.5-24	1118/111	12	1091-92 1112-12.5	1113-1	4 2	44,512 lots
Copper, Grad										nr 83,244 loi
Çeşh 1		1634				1610-11				
	632-3	1	1857	-68	1860/162	5	1684-35	1636-3	7 17	76,945 loke
Lead (\$ per to								Total	delly turns	wer 5,513 loi
	81.5-8 95-98	2	389 403		400/395		384.5-85 398-99	800.40		AND INC.
Mickel (5 per t		_	460	3.0	400000		360-40	390-40		,585 lotu
	512-17		4000	L-610			4476-80	Iqta	CELLY TURNO	ver 14,91@ot
	565-76		4660		4830/452		4535-40	4570-8	0 45	5,575 lots
Tin (5 per ton)		_								wer 4,017 let
	838-4		4770	-80			4905-10			
3 months 4	888-00	<u>i</u>	4820		4900/482	. 0.	4850-60	4870-8	0 12	2,198 lots
Zinc, Special	High (irade	(\$ per	(ennot				Total o	izily tumov	er 27,275 lot
	24-25		929-		922		22-22.5			
LAKE Closing	41-42	_	946-	\$ f	848/937		38.5-39	947-48	88	,305 lois
SPOT: 1.4915	ra u	-	a mor	DE 14	ME.		monent 1,	A753	9	orane 1,450
LINE AM OTTO	101 CM								-	1,400
pres Ant Unito	em no	spor	(888)	4081						
PORTOON BRI						14.	ew Y	ark		
(Prices supplie	d by I	K M F	lothaci	#d)			560 1	UFK		
Gold (troy oz)	\$ prk	28		vlupa 3	nierit	OCN	D 100 bent	02.; \$/kray o		
Close	366.7	5-367.	25							
Opening		0-365.				-	Close	Previous	High/Lov	
Morning St Afternoon for	366.8 366.4			247.560 246.435		Oct Nov	369.1 369.4	368.3 368.7	0	0
Day's high		0-369.		000	,	Dec	370.3	389.5	370.8	365.6
Day's low	364.5					Feb Apr	372.1 373.9	371.4 369.8	372.3	368.0
Loco Ldn Med	ne Go	d Ler	idlag f	lutes (V	le US\$]	Jun	375.6	374.9	374.0 375.6	370.5 373.5
(month)	2.	74	6 mgt	ritha	2.65	Aug	377.4	376.7	0	0
THE REAL PROPERTY.		70	12 m	artire.	2.86	Oct	579.2	378,5	0	Q
2 m2ms	_	65				PLAT		roy oz. \$/tro		
Silver fix	b _Q coA	02		US ots	ednja		Close	Previous	High/Lov	y
	299.0			445.35		Oct	372.9 363.0	370,4 363.0	0	0
	302.90 306.80			448.55 452,10		Jan	375.4	372.9	0 378.5	0 372.d
	314.7			160.00		Apr	377.2	374.6	378.0	374.0
						Jul Det	376.2 379.7	375.6 377.1	378.0	376.5 0
QOLD CODES						-		oy oz: cents/	-	
	\$ p	ice		400	Marri		Close	Previous		
Krupemend.	970	00-37	300	248.00-	-		_		High/Low	
Maple legi		10-37		E-0.00	231,00	Oct	441.2 447.8	440.7	0	0
New Sovereign	96.0	0-88.0	20	57.00-6	0.00	Dec	443.0	442.5	445.0	454.0
						Mur	444.2	448.7	0	0
TRADED OPT	10118					May	450.1	449.6	449.0 450.5	438.0 443.0
Aluminium (99.	79a)		alle		Puts	Jul .	453.0	452.5	450.0	447.0
Strike price \$ t	<u> </u>					Sep	455.9 450.4	455.4 459.9	0 484.0	0
	CHEIN	Dec	Mar	Dec	Mar	Jan	461.6	ANTA	0	453.0 0
11 00 1125		22	46	18	21	нан	GRADE C	OPPER 25,0	OO sher com	ta/fine
1150		11 5	33 22	30 48	32 46		C7098	Previous		
	<u></u>	-				=			High/Low	
Copper (Grade	~4		Autis		Puta	Oct Nov	72.40 72.80	73.25 73.50	72.40	72.40
1600 1650		50	85	20	34	Dec	73.15	73.86	0 73.45	Q 72.70
1700		24 10	58 37	44 79	56 84	Jan	73.45	74.15	73.40	73.20
			_,			Feb Mor	73.76 74.05	74,45 74,70	0 74.25	77.00
Coffee LCE	_	Ble::		Nov		Apr	74.35	75.00	/4.25 0	73.90 0
		Nov	Jan	NOV	Jen	May	74.65	75.30	74.70	74.20
1150		56	110	_	36	Jui Jui	74.95 75.25	75.60	75.00	75.00
1200 1260		13	80 58	7 44	65 61			75.90	75.45	75.00
Cocce LCE		D				CHUD		42,000 U	5 galls \$/be	and .
		Dec	Mar	Dec	Mar	-	Lettest	Provenus	High/Low	
900 925		46	92	21	40	Nov	18.09	75.13	18.25	18.05
950		32 22	77 64	32 47	50 62	Jan	16.32	18.25	18.38	18.23
			-	71	æ	Feb	18.50 18.51	18.39 18.61	18.52 18.63	18.64
Brant Crude				Deç		Mar	18.75	18.63	18.75	18.84
1850		Dec	Jan		Jan	Apr May	18.85	18.74	18.84	18.78
1890 1700		99		18	26	Jun.	16.34 19.05	18.84 18.93	18.94 19.06	19.03
1750		32 14	36	36	45	Jul	19.10	19.00	19.10	19,10
						Aug	19.13	19.07	19.43	19.11

HEA	TING OIL	42,000 UB g	_	US gate	_ CI	nicaç	j 0		
_	Latest	Previous	High/Lo	w	80Y	AREANS S	000 bu min	centa/80th bi	antinal .
Nov Dea	54.30	53.89	54.60	65.80		Close	Previous		
Jen	55.50 55.60	54.70 55.30	86.40 85.96	54,70 5 5,40	Nav	614/6	617/4		
Feb	55.80	65.35	56.00	65.60	Jan	621/6	624/2	819/2 526/D	614/0
Mer	64,91	64.56	55.20	54.70	Mar	628/6	631/0	633/0	621/2 626/0
Apr	54.00	53.50	63.80	69,80	May	633/2	\$35/0	636/4	632/4
May	53.15	82,50	85.06	62.90	Jul Aug	636/4	638/2	640/4	636/2
Jun	52.45	51,96	0	0	Sep	624/6	625/4 625/4	B39/0	635/4
Jul Aug	52.60 62.65	52 .10	0	0	Nov	917/0	817/4	627/4 619/0	824/6 818/4
Ť		52,65 res:3/torres	0	0	90Y/	WEAR OIL	60,000 lbs;		3104
	Close	Previous			. =	Olose	Previous	High/Low	
200	1136		High/Los		- Oat Dec	22.87 22.94	22.69	22.97	Mar.
4	1172	1167	1152	1116	Jen	23.03	22.87 22.92	23.10	22.66
	1186	1177	1187 1200	1169	Mar	23.17	23.15	23.15 23.26	<u>22.80;</u> 22.92
ď	1206	1204	1212	1176 11 9 6	May	23.14	23.19	23.90	23.00
ep	1229	1220	1212	1270	المال معال	23.10	23.19	23.27	23.01
40	1237	1234	1252	1241	Aug Bep	22.90 22.70	23.05 22.87	23.05	22.90
	1243	1246	1253	1245				23.00	. 925,719
	1257	1260	1268	1200	BOYA	BEAN ME	AL, 100 tons;	S/ton	1.
ep ep	1271 1290	1274 1886	1276	1270		Close	Previous	High/Low	-
_				0	Oct	193.5	194.5	195.0	193.6
ЭĦ	A 45 M	(RICE) CHI	THE PERSON		Deg Jan	190.7 190.8	182.4	192.8	190.5
	Close	Previous	High/Lov		Ma	191.5	192.3 193.1	192.6	190.5
_					May	192,9	194.3	193.5 194.8	191.4
ec er	76.30	78.15	78.50	78.10	dui	194.8	195.7	196.3	192.5 : 194.7
27	78.85 80.10	80.45 81.95	80.70	78,65	Aug	194.8	195.6	196.2	194.8
ď	81.45	83.30	81.90 82.50	80.00	Sep	194.7	195.5	195.8	194,7
p	82.80	84,60	83.60	82.00 83.40	MAIZ	5,000 bu	min; cents/5	Bib bushel	
	85.05	86.75	85.25	85.25		Close	Previous	High/Low	
	88.00	89.25	0	0	Dec	254/0	253/0	255/2	252/6 4
g,	UR WORL	*11" 112,00	00 lbs; cent	ts/fb6	Mar May	262/2 266/4	261/2	263/4	260/8
_	Close	Previous	High/Low		Jul	268/4	265/0 267/0	267/4	264/6
-					Sep	281/0	259/4	269/2 261/2	267/0 259/6
,	10.33 10.52	10.24 10.44	10,34	10.24	Dec	254/4	253/2	254/4	253/2
	10.55	10,49	10.52	10.43		260/6	259/4	260/8	260/0
	10.57	10.47	10.58 10.58	10,48	WHEA	7 5,000 bu	min; cente/6	CID-bushel	
П	ON 60,000	los; cents/it	25		Dag	Close	Previous	High/Low	
	Close	Previous	Hghlow		Mag	330/2 328/2	328/0 328/0	331/0	326/6
	27.17	57.40			May	319/2	319/5	329/4 319/8	325/0 . 315/0 .
,	58.78	59.05	57.35 59.26	57.15	Jul Sep	309/4	310/0	310/2	306/4
	29.70	50.85	60.05	58,75	Dec	313/4 321/4	314/4	0 -	0
	80.20	60.40	00.05	59.70 50,10			321/4	321/4	320/0
ŧ	61.02	60.90	0	0	TALE C		000 ES cent	s/fbs	
C	61,15 61,00	61,00 61,60	61.15	80.85		Close	Previous	High/Low:	
			0	0	Oct Dec	73,325	73.200	73,600	79,300
AN	OE JUICE	15,000 lbs; (Cerrits/libe		Feb	74.700	74.700	75.000	74.550 74.550
	Close	Previous			Apr	75.175 78.400	75.375	75.450	74.950
_			High/Low		Jun	78,100 73,125	76.375	78.500	76.050
٧	114,30	114.75	115.05	113.95	Aug	71.500	73,325	73.475	73.100
1	117.25	117,60	117.95	116.75	Oct	71.950	71.750 72.150	71.950 72.300	71,600
y	119.20	119.60	120.10	119.20	LIVE H		0 to; cents/lb	12000	71.925
y	121.00	121.25	121.50	121.00			w 40; Centsvib	5	_
	122.25 123.00	122.50	122,25	121.50		Close	Previous	High/Low	
9	121.00	123.20	9	0	Oct	48.275	48,250	<u> </u>	
	121.00	121.25 121.25	0	0	Dec	49.650	49.950	48.500	47.950 49,575
		· E (142)	0	Q	Feb An-	60.075	50.100	50.050 50.250	49.575 17 49.700
=	CRS				Apr Jun	48.075	48,160	48.250	47.825
					Jul	52,400 51,350	52.500	52.500	52.250
티	1273 (Ba	e:Septembe	18 1931	1001	Aug	49,750	51.450	51.550	51.226
_	Oct 19	Oct 18	moth ago		Oct	45,725	49.800 45.900	49.750 **	49.650
	1582.5	1561,2	1595.4		PORK :		70.400	0	45.600
ON		Base: Dec. 3	1 1074	1621.0			0,000 Tos; cor	da/fb	- 17 - 12 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17 - 17
	Oct 18	Oct 15		<u> </u>		Close	Previous	10-10	****
ot	118,36	117.40	mmth ago 121 88	yr ago	Feb Mer	57.B25	58.350	58.550-1	
						E7 000			

113,95 115,11

57,600 57,900 58,725 57,325

58.125 57.800 58.500 57.325

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Profit-taking unsettles equity market

By Steve Thompson

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Contraction of the

battled in vain against downward forces yesterday and was finally forced to concede ground after the recent outstanding performance which has seen share prices hitting new records for the past two

trading sessions. Some senior market traders emphasised, however, that a an ace of bursting into adjusting its market positions modest decline in prices yesterday was merely a period of consolidation before a further

strong upward move.

Others were at odds with the bullish view, and said the Londay warket was only one of a Angen West | Manual |

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Ang

Citiers were at odds with the bullish view, and said the London market was only one of a number of international markets. The bearish pressures affect. The nomic data showing a decline in manufacturing output and

another rise in inflation. There was very little pres-THE London equity market sure on share prices as the market opened with traders tentatively moving quotations higher in response to yet another good showing by Wall

Street overnight.
The US market performed well on Monday, coming within 10 points or so of its all-time record and was within

after London closed yesterday. The FT-SE 100 officially

been triggered by aggressive selling of the Pootsie future. The pressure in the futures market was thought by dealers to have represented one of the leading UK securities houses

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

uncharted territory shortly to accommodate a large tradexecuted in the cash market. opened just over three points higher before running into a flurry of pressure said to have looking extremely ragged.

Once the futures selling was done, however, the market began to regain its composure, to the extent that the Footsie moved briefly back into posttive territory at midday. Sentiment began to falter

to accommodate a large trad-ing programme subsquently there was very little selling pressure evident. Prices went into a gentle decline which left the FT-SE 100 Index down 8.0 at the close at 3,129.6. The FT-SE Mid 250 Index, meanwhile, put on a similarly resil-

lent performance, closing only a fraction off at 3,486.8. Turnover in the market held up well, in spite of what was seen by some dealers as signs that the market had run out of steam. Some 658.2m shares were traded yesterday, just short of Monday's level, with non-Footsie stocks accounting

for more than 403m shares. The value of customer business transacted on Monday was a creditable £1.33bn, indicating that the big domestic and overseas instititions have continued to pump money into the market.

Drug stocks were the mar-ket's undoubted stars yester-day, closely followed by the oil majors, with both sectors responding to the pound's weakness and the consequent strengthening of the dollar.

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Option Declaratio	Ott 18	Nov 1
Oct 14	Oct 36	Nev 11
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Wall St helps drug shares

THE Wall Street factor was one of the main forces fuelling a strong performance in pharmaceutical issues yesterday as US investors boosted confidrugs stocks got off to a confident start on the back of a good overnight performance in the US market. Positive sentiment in the US was boosted by good results from American Home Products and ripples from Merck, which had announced its results the pre-

vious day. Currency considerations with the strength of the dollar Rank Organisation sent the also pulled in some US buyers

SmithKline Beecham "A" also had the boost of satisfac-tory results and moved ahead 9 strong rumour that the chief shares hardened 2% to 130%p. to 414p. Glaxo appreciated 18% to 694%p and Zeneca advanced 24 to 777p. One analyst put some of Zeneca's gain down to a shortage of stock, however. Wellcome, which continues to benefit from interest ahead

of its New Orleans conference later this week, gained 9 at 775p. Its results are due at the

Virtuality excels

A sparkling debut from Virtuality, the specialist software producer, saw the shares 200m

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1993

MERT MICHS (286).

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(11 AMERICANS IS Amor Cysnemid, BelSouth, Chysler, Onno, Do S Brachmert, Schill, Ford, Loweth, Torson, CAMADIAMS (1) Benk of New Scott, BAMICS (2) Alacid Irin, Bank Instance, Camadiams (1) Benk of New Scott, BAMICS (2) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, Costa, BAMICS (2) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, Person, Chillens (4) Alacid Irin, Bank Irinano, Costa, Bank Irinano, Bank Irinano, Despending Bank Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irinano, BAMICS (3) Alacid Irinano, Bank Iri

to a premium of 119p over the listing price of 170p. The shares closed at 289p with turnover reaching 5.7m, more than one third of yesterday's

Dealers said the shares. which went to around 80 institutions, moved to an immediate subtantial premium before gathering momentum during the session. They hit a bid high of 315p in the afternoon before

coming back at the close.
Virtuality's strong showing carries on the successful run of market debuts. Last week, Parkdean Leisure went to a 6 per cent premium on its first day. It closed a penny shead yesterday at 133p, up 13 from its float price.

Rank tumbles

A raft of bearish rumours on shares tumbling, closing 25 down at 818p in busy turnover of 2m. The first to hit the executive had sold shares this week in advance of a meeting with analysts prior to the group going into closed period. However, the company dented the story yesterday, saying the trade was a tax-related bed and breakfast deal and unrelated to

the company's performance. The shares were further undermined by negative press comment over Rank's debt, together with rumours of an impending disposal. The talk added to nervous sentiment

ahead of the analysts meeting a week on Friday, when Rank will issue a trading statement.

Among oil stocks, some US buying was reported in Shell and RP, with the former climbing 7% to 708p and BP up 4% to 338% to 338%. to 3334p.

Burman Castrol eased a penny to 760p as BZW announced an auction of just over a million shares that it agreed to take on via the recent enhanced share alterna-

Enterprise Oil continued to enjoy the benefits of several recent buy notes and the price pushed up 9 to 499p. Hardy Oil, which announced an oil discov-ery in Pakistan, added 3 to

176p.
The market was twitchy over British Ges after a report by a group of independent gas com-panies pointed to the effect of a monopoly keeping the tariffs up. Its price fell 2½ to 325½p.

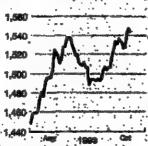
One analyst also pointed to some rotational buying moving

through the sector. Tobacco and financial services group BAT Industries came under pressure late in the day after Philip Morts, its US rival reported a 24.8 per cent decline in third quarter income to \$971m. The company blamed lower cigarette prices brought about by the current price war in the US market. Shares in BAT gave up 10 to

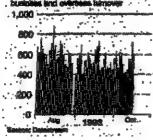
479p, in trade of 3.4m. The long awaited announcement of the appointment of executive directors at international trading group Lonrho was well received by the market. Active dealing brought turnover of 5.6m and the

FT-A All-Share findex

Beand on the leading volume for a selection of Alpha exceptions deeft shrough the SEAC system yesterday until 4,80pm. Trades of one million or more are rounded down. ? Indicates an FT-SE 100 Index constituent.



Equity Shares Tracked Timover by volume (military)
Bioducing: Intra-maries
business and overteen temovier



Favourable comment on construction and engineering group Trafalgar House helped bring about a bounce in the shares and they moved for-

ward 3 to 88p.
Disappointing figures from plastics and metal components group McKechnie brought a silde in the shares. The 7 per cent increase in full year fig-ures to £24.5m was at the bottom of market expectations were accompanied by a cau-tious statement. At the day's worst the shares were down 19 at 425p.

However, discussions with analysts and general bargain hunting saw some of the ear-lier gloom lifted and the shares closed 13 lower at 432p.

The news that US group Morgan Guaranty Trust had lowered its prime lending rate from 6 to 5.5 per cent, along with general profit-taking brought a sharp decline in sev-

eral banking stocks.

The biggest fall was seen in Barclays, where the shares gave up 16 to 558p in trade of 3.3m. National Westminster declined 10 to 559p.

Profit downgradings for

HSBC from several brokers to take account of Monday's £172 court Judgement against its merchant banking subsidiary Samuel Montagu, left the shares trailing 13 to 746p. SG Warburg was also said to be mate by 25m to 275m, though they left the current year forecast at 250m. BZW cited con-

cartious on the stock while James Capel is remains cool towards the sector as a whole.

The recent profits downgrading from Straues Turnbull for Abbey National continued to exact a toll on the shares and they gave up 8 to 414p.
In a quiet property sector,
Hammerson was the main

focus of attention as it announced the restructuring of its shares. The details were well received and the ordi-nary's advanced 14 to 418p and the A's 5 to 374p. News that BT could generate

revenue of around £2bn a year by the end of the decade from video home entertainment ser vices, lifted the shares. They fully-paid closed 5 forward at 464p, the partly's 8 up at 215%p.

Profit-taking snipped Cable and Wireless back 22 at 952p, and Vodafone's strong run also ran out of steam, the shares 11

Aero engine maker Rolls-Royce gave up 4% to 147%p after securities house BZW was said to have down-graded profit expectations. Volume at the close was 4.6m.

Defence stocks remained under a cloud as worries that the government would announce wide ranging defence cuts in next month's budget grew. Fears of such a move were heightened by Mon-day's announcement that the government is to sell two navy dockyards as part of a drive for

defence savings.
Rumours that a bear story is stalking Pilkingtons moved through the market although many industry watchers seemed to be unaware of its nature. The shares slipped 4 to 138p in a volume of 138p.

The results of Wolseley pleased the market and its shares gained 18 to close at 8220.

892p.
Weakness was seen in Voeper Thornycroft, which lost 6 to 681p, VSEL, off 2 at 833p, and Vickers 3 lighter at 151p.
Among motor stocks, Monday's mailting visit to BBA day's positive visit to BBA Group by several analysts which was initially seen as positive led to caution yesterday. BZW was among securities houses that were cheered by the visit but analysts at the securities house yesterday shaved the 1994 profits esti-

FINANCIAL TIMES EQUITY INDIGES

	Oct 19	0ci 18	OUE 15	Oct 14	Q22 13	100	* High	" Low	
dicary share ind. div. yield arming yiel % full VE ratio net VE ratio all ind fillipsus	2351.8 1.94 4.67 27.58 25.43 218.7	2363.0 3.93 4.58 27.69 25.46 213.3	2354.3 3.95 4.58 27.46 25.34 213.7	2327.A 4.06 4.84 27.19 25.05 214.6	2333.2 3.99 4.93 27.25 25.09 215.5	1912.9 4.70 6.72 18.91 17.58 71.2	2414.2 4.62 6.36 28.30 38.14 249.2	2124.7 3.82 4.61 10.40 16.14 40.0	•
r 1993. Ordinary s Ad Alimen Index at	100 COMP ¹	letton high	c 734.7 15	19gh 2494 1/2/83- Ipu	2 31/8/81 28/18/71	- Igar 49,	A 2019AIG		

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EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

tine Buckley.

The December contract on of the contract was 3,159 in early trading.

FOOTSIE futures suffered from directionless trading as dealers struggled to find a clear lead on the outlook for interest rate cuts or the economic recovery, writes Christine Buckley.

The December contract on muster a short-lived rally. That was on the back of a little optimism that downbeat comments on the retail sector may force the chancel interest rates. The high point of the contract was 3,159 in of the contract was 3,159 in of the contract on the contract on the contract of the contract was 3,159 in of the contract on the contract of the contract on the contract of the contract of the contract of the contract on the contract of the contract of the contract of the contract on the contract of the contract of the contract of the contract on the contract of the contrac

The December contract on the FT-SE 100 opened a little above the previous night's close at 3,151, although it was fairly weak and could only

tinuing weakness in the European automotive sector for its

Profit-taking left Airtours 5 adrift at 450p. Thern EMI remained friendless, off 6 to 908p. Executive buying was said to have lifted Vardon, up 3 to 109p. Reflection on moves by Euro Disney to reduce its labour force left the shares update of the Sainter Street and the shares of the under a cloud, off 25 to 595p. Compass Group fell heavily for the second session running, losing a further 18 to 582p. The company was said to be upbest in the face of market talk of margin pressures in the cater-ing industry.

MARKET REPORTED IN Joel Kibazo, Christopher Price

Other ministics, Page 21

3129.6 -8.0 3486.8 -0.1 1545.02 -2.86 Dividend Earnings Oct 10 change % Oct 15 Dail 15 Dail 14 yfold % ytold % 200 yté Return FT-6E 180 -6.3 3137.6 -- 3486.8 -- 3486.8 -6.2 1563.8 3120.8 3086.3 2617.0 3479.8 3464.4 2410.4 3481.5 3470.0 2413.8 3129.5 FT-6E 1Mc 20) FT-6E 1Mc 20) 3486.6 3485.6 3481.5 3470.0 2413.6 1556.6 1541.7 1254.3 FT-65-A 360 FT-65 Smalltap FT-65 Smalltap or has Troub, FT-6 ALL-STARE ___ 1791.81 1788.09 1782.95 1774.38 1772.08 35.95 33.46 22.81 1792.11 1777.18 39.85 1344.4 1229.53 -0.4 1080.07 1060.08 1080.71 739.58 -0.1 1192.51 1182.38 1179.57 875.07 -0.1 1038.73 1038.16 1035.78 568.89 +0.2 2689.25 3024.89 3024.35 1874.89 -0.4 2907.92 2661.69 2600.19 2668.34 -0.7 422.05 432.47 432.18 273.70 -0.1 516.54 617.59 614.12 430.06 +0.1 485.09 484.43 486.29 238.19 -0.8 2088.73 2109.25 2109.25 1782.00 -0.8 2088.73 2109.25 2109.25 1782.00 -0.8 2088.73 2109.25 2109.85 1882.08 5 1 EWITH, 200000215 1 Entry New York 2 Entry New York 3 Contractor 4 Southeart 5 Sector 6 Sector 7 Engineert 7 Engineert 7 Engineert 8 Sector 8 Secto 424.86 615.86 5.82 11.07 3 Molecu(20) 10 Other Autostrials(15) 485.36 439.25 2080.92 1708.07 1840.27 1355.86 2577.85 3743.44 1360.86 2162.45 -0.2 1844.44 1823.84 1815.04 1833.48 21 CONSTINUE CHOUP(240) Browers and Class +0.1 1853.9 1853 25 Food Manufacturing(24) 26 Food Rutaling(17) 27 Health & Houseman(1) 27 Health & Houseman(2) 28 Health and Lukom(2) 36 Medis(54) 31 Packaging and Paper(8) 34 Stans(55) 35 Tacklin(2) 884.49 1302.03 23.38 22.77 40 STREER EMOURE(14) 41 Steahnes Services(27) 42 Chemicals(24) 43 Conglomerates(11) 44 Transport(16) 45 Estation(17) -6.1 1986.11 1677.43 1668.76 1310.29 -6.1 1678.15 1678.26 1658.42 1374.91 1684,48 1675,95 1571.41 1584.88 1570.85 1502.06 1553.76 1316.36 +0.4 1577.79 1572.19 1552.39 1517.31 6.67 17.18 -0.2 3285.9 3250.70 3344.05 2521.58 +0.3 2160.05 2138.29 2118.29 1418.01 -0.1 3051.40 1004.08 1997.80 1511.05 +0.0 3866.06 3862.22 3864.55 3051.64 -1.5 2480.84 2470.30 2408.57 1000.76 3258.02 2188.10 2049.50 3830.34 10.47 11.87 5.28 83.13 45 Telephone Main 47 Weitr(13) -0.1 1850.81 1549.79 1631.83 1299.85 +0.7 2741.74 2733.28 2660.96 2114.29 8.07 39.42 1112.41 ST DE B DIMETTY 2781.20 ___ 1654.89 1847.48 1833.90 1349.88 59 "SHO" SHAKE MODIFIED 1654.57 3.72 8.04 -1.1 1215.73 1210.27 1194.81 774.40 AT FRUNCHE CRONPINI 1202,19 -1.8 1885.42 1873.45 1846.37 1080.04 -1.8 1985.42 1873.45 1848.37 1080.04 +0.4 2171.01 2147.94 18118.76 1835.51 -1.1 1983.05 1945.34 753.87 854.57 +0.1 953.16 845.90 439.81 894.09 -1.8 862.90 845.34 852.00 468.00 +0.2 1082.14 1882.74 1086.45 851.85 -0.4 462.75 459.55 455.80 241.97 +0.1 1740.78 1730.89 1787.84 1770.85 86 insurance (Lingth) 86 insurance (Composite(s) 87 insurance Brokers(10) 88 insurance Brokers(10) 2179.94 725.93 851.78 1090.96 400.89 1742.91 69 Property(30) 70 Other Resociat(25) 71 Americant Trusts(119) 2.30 1331,42 1545.92 -0.2 154A78 1541.91 1807.76 1738.53 TALIO High/day Low/day 9.00 18.60 11.00 12,00 13.00 14.00 15.00 FT-6E 100 3140.9 3130.4 FT-6E Mid 200 3407.5 3406.8 FT-6E-A 300 1006.1 1001.1 3134,4 3487,9 1582,7 3154.0 3157.7 5485.5 3488.7 1582.6 1684.0 3135.9 3488.5 [582.3 3130.9 3457.5 1581.5 31312 3487.9 1561.5 3131.1 3485.5 1687.1

Actuaries Share Indices

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FT-SE 100

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry Baskets Provious cises 2.60 10.00 11.00
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 Water
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 Bends
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Additional Intermedian on the FT-6E Advance Street Indices is published in Saturday Insua. Lists of constituents are evaluate from the France Street Indices is published in Saturday Insua. Lists of constituents are evaluate from the France Infrared Insuance Street Indices Service, which covers a range of electronic and paper-based products estating to these indices, is smallable from FRASTAT at the serve address.

This infrared in the street in the FT-6E Advances Indice them Juruary 4 1999 means that the FT-800 now contains more stocks. It has been renamed the FT-950*, 7 Sector PIE ratios greater than 50 are not shown, 1 Velume are negative.

The FT-6E 100, the FT-6E Not 850 and the FT-6E Advances 350 Indices are complied by the London Stock Exchange and the FT-Advances Af-Shawe from the Indices of Advances under a standard set of ground rules, 9 The Intermedical Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and Placebillo of Integral Limited 1993. 9 The Firemoial Times Limited 1993. All rights reserved indices are audited by The WM Company.

No.8,284 Set by ALAUN

1 Brush the suit (5)
4 Can break free to get out, which is had (6)
8 Repeat it time and time again when I'm gone (7)
9 Do try - it is a competition

(7) 11 Rock music? (6,4) 12 Claimed to have been kept captive (4)
18 As far as "It's swing music

proper (6) 26 Checked back to find the

13 As far as "It's swing music he's famous for" (5)

14 What they do at a dog parlour that makes news (8)

15 Back and win a bundle through "My Mac" (8)

16 Back and win a bundle through "My Mac" (8)

17 Devious woman who will be tray you" (9)

18 Thought to be, at first, confused (5)

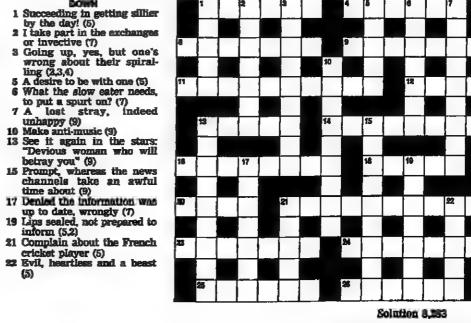
20 Animal that has potential killers in retreat (4)

21 Can't it see it's going nowhere? (5,5)

23 Having caught the germ, was furlous (7)

24 Mean, twisting the tail and rather liking it (7)

25 Escort to quarters, as is proper (6)



JOTTER PAD

DOUBLE ACROSTIC
OLO OUH H
UPTURN SCOTFREE
BID PO 6 OE
TEMPLARS MORASS
I A Y E K I T E
MUTS ASININE
G E BIO G D Q
BRADAWL FILM
T U U E A C S E
HERESY ALLINALL
OAH S L P B E
MONMOUTH CHALET
A I F A E E T
STAMFORD BRIDGE

PE Notes

Verrants

15.7 Perving I & C the AFC

16.1 Uses

Verrants

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Verrants

For & Col Emp Nex. C

Verrants

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Verrants

For & Col PEP

Verrants

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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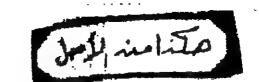
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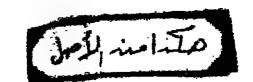
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Dollar recovers against DM THE US dollar staged a come back from recent lows against the the D-Mark yesterday while the German currency was weaker in Europe as technical positions were adjusted,

The dollar's revival began in New York on Monday, continued in the Par Rast and endured through European trading hours yesterday. How-ever, most dealers were at a loss to find any substance behind the move. There was a general acceptance that the dollar had reached a support level which prompted investors to take their profits and buy back the US currency.

The correction began with the Japanese yen against which the dollar fell to around Y105 a fortnight ago. On Monday it moved back to the mid-Y107 level but was unable to break through Y107.50, seen as a significant chart level. It slipped to Y107.05 to the yen from Y107.45 yesterday as the rally shifted to Europe.

It rose to DM1.6440 at best

against the D-Mark, just below the top of a recent trading range which begins at DMI-5880. Mr Paul Chertkow, global currency analyst at UBS, said: "Once DM1.5940 was tested, the tenor of the market

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changed. There is a feeling that the gloom has been overdone. The fundamentals are pointing to a stronger dollar, particularly in the light of speculation of lower rates in

The dollar closed a prennig higher in Europe against the German currency at DM1.6370. It was also stronger against sterling for much of the day hitting \$1.4830 to the pound before rallying in the afternoon to close at \$1.4920, still up from \$1.4980 previously.

Analysts will be scrutinising

the UK retail sales figure for September this morning as the market becomes increasingly essed with signals that UK interest rates might soon fall.

The D-Mark had benefited from hedging against lower interest rates in Belgium and France last week and slipped yesterday as dealers pocketed profits from the sharp shifts in the European currencies. The German Bundesbank

will hold its weekly repure agreement today and there feeling that the central l could allow its variable lenrate to slip by some 5 b points to 6.65 per cent. W not significant in itself a lo repo might pave the way cut in key rates dependin M3 money supply data

CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

The D-Mark slipped BFr21.82 from BFr21.88 aga the Belgian franc ahead of release of details of Belgiu social pact on wages and late yesterday.

It was also weaker aga the Italian lira. Dealers : that foreign investors had l buying Italian equities with hedging against further fall the currency because the had reached a recent low that had helped the current recovery. The D-Mark fell L978.80 from L876.80.

Against the French fra the D-Mark slipped FF73.5320 from FF72.5350.

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	FINANCIAL FUTURE	
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e is a bank	1 115 0-46 1-26 1-10 2-40 118 0-24 1-05 1-62 3-17	9575 0.06 0.43 0.11 9600 0.02 0.23 0.32
ding	117 0-11 0-61 2-39 3-63 118 0-04 0-36 3-32 4-48	9625 0.01 0.10 0.66 9650 0 0.05 0.60
basis Vhile	Estimated volume total, Calls 13796 Pals 1942	9675 0 0.03 1.05 Estimated volume total, Calls IIII. Per II
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for a gon	LAFFE ESSUMANCE OFTIONS SHELD points of 180%	LIFFE ITALIAN GOVT, DONG (STP) FERRE Options Life 200m 1000m m
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jobs	Estimated volume total, Calls 8882 Puts 2177 Previous dey's open lst. Calls 178508 Puts 103836	Entereind volume total, Calle 2006 Pais 30 Previous day's open lot. Calle 42021 Puis 20
rinst said	LONDON (LIFFE)	CHECAGO
been	9% NOTICEAL BRITISH CALT * ESG.000 Strein of 100%	U.S. TREASURY BONDS (CBT) 8% \$100,000 32xds of 100%
hout Is in	Close High Low Prev. Dec 114-18 114-25 113-29 114-04	Latest High Low
lira and	Mor 113-26 113-26 113-12 115-15 Estimated volume 54238 (39756) Provious day's open lat. 117078 (120632)	Dec 120-25 121-06 120-18 Mar 119-18 119-30 119-11 Jus 118-23 118-23 118-11 Sep 117-15 117-15 117-17 Dec Aler
icy's	PS, MUTTORAL GERMAN CONT. BOND *	Sec 117-15 117-15 117-17
l to	Cicee High Low Prev. Dec 100.34 100.45 100.19 100.27	Sep Dec
anc, to	MARY 100.44 100.48 100.30 100.38	
- LQ	Estimated volume 72718 (81396) Provious day's open int. 183946 (189192)	\$1 IS TREASORY BELLS (NAM)
	est noticiol. Mediani term germani gryf, Bond (8091.) Dazzojaro 1800a ef 200% * Close High Low Prey.	Dec 98.85 98.85 98.85 Mer 96.75 98.78 98.74 Jen 98.57 98.60 98.57
	Dec 102.29 102.38 102.22 102.26	Jun 95.57 96.80 96.57
9C8 DI\$	Estimated volume 3515 (3806) Previous day's open int. 21634 (22004)	MATTER POURE (MAI)
	6% MITHORAL LONG TERM AND AND SOUTH SOUT, SOUTH THOSE OF 180%	Se per £
	Close High Low Dec 113.26 113.29 113.16	Dec 1,4788 1,4888 1,4780 Mar 1,4780 1,4780 1,4720 Jun 1,4720 1,4720
	Mar 112.49 Estimated volume 1452 (2155) Traded exclusively on APT	
	12% HOTIONAL ITALIAN SOVT, BOND (STP) *	SWISS FRANC (INDI) SF: 125,000 \$ per SF:
arthge	LISA 290m 109ths of 190% Close High Low Prev.	Latest High Low 0.6885 0.6909 0.6880 Mar 0.6873 0.8895 0.8873
ud (bil ni jad ingidin	Cines High Low Prev. Dec 118.46 118.89 118.31 118.50 Mar 118.17 118.44 118.04 118.50	Dec 0.8895 0.895 0.8873 Mar 0.8873 0.8895 0.8873 Jun
ne the	Entimeted volume 27523 (24855) Previous day's open lot. 78656 (79116)	
,	10% NOTICEAL SPARSH SOYT. BOND (BORD) Pia 20st 1000s of 182%	PHEADELPHIA SE 2/3 OFTIONS
1	M Cross Engit Low Prev.	Strike Calls
241	A	Price Nov Dec J 1.425 5.88 8.18 8.1 1.450 3.85 4.32 4.1 1.476 2.19 2.83 8.1
1,03 -0,85 -3,49	Estimated volume 0 (0) Previous day's open lot, 0 (0)	1.475 2.19 2.83 3.1
-3.15 -0.77 -0.82	TREES BONTH STEELING * PROCESS publis of 188%	1,500 1,00 1,79 2,1 1,525 0,46 1,04 1, 1,550 0,17 0,58 1, 1,575 0,09 0,25 0,1
-5.01 -3.83	Cicee High Low Prev. Dag 94.60 94.62 94.58 94.59 Mar 94.73 94.76 94.70 94.73	Provious day's open int: Calls \$40.27 Provious day's volume: Calls 7,398
-0.88 -0.87 -1,10	Jun 94.72 94.73 94.70 94.72 San 94.50 94.60 94.58 94.50	PARIO
-1뿗	Dec 94.41 94.42 94.36 94.39 Est. Val. (Inc. Tigs. not shows) 48569 (56786)	7 to 10 YEAR 10% NOTICEAL PROS
-0.93 1.18 -1.84	Previous day's open int. 382273 (356528)	Open Bett price December 124.49 124.52 March 128.84 128.92
Mosii	Sim points of 100%	Line 125.24 128.32 Baltingted volume 105.441 + Total Cr
_	Dec 96.58 96.56 96.52 96.57	THE MONTH PIECE PITMES ON
A	Jun 95.34 96.35 96.35 96.40 Sep 96.13 95.15 96.14 96.20 Set the for the net change 1008 (423)	December 93.58 93.54 March 94.48 94.85
% LL	Bet. Vol. (inc. figs. not shows) 1005 (452) Previous day's open Int. 10762 (10543)	June 94.87 94.84 September 95.07 96.08
3설	THREE ROOMER ESTEROMANK SM 1m points of 1985	Sessional volume 32,000 + Tetal Ope
120	Citize High Low Prev. Dec 95.81 95.88 95.80 95.85 Mer 94.44 94.98 94.45 94.46 Jun 94.84 94.98 94.83 94.84	October 2162.5 2162.0
提	340 HS.07 HS.UB HS.UB HS.UB	Nevember 2177,5 2176,6 December 2190,0 2180,0 March 2214,6 2221,0
1425345 1425 1435 1435 1435 1435 1435 1435 1435 143	Entimated volume 61036 (45305)	Espirated volume 12,669 † Total Ope
	Previous day's open int. 667090 (869489)	December 119,76 119,80
썙	(Close High Law Pres.	Betweeled volume 2,986 † Total Open
1.25 4.01	Dec. 92.96 93.67 92.66 92.63 Nor 93.60 93.66 93.60 93.64	OPTION ON LONG-TERM PRODUCT BO
ency.	Jun 94:30 94:36 94:31 94:85	Stries Hoversbur Decemb
_	Sep 94.56 94.63 94.66 94.62	122 - 2.
	Sep 94.55 94.63 94.66 94.62 Estinated volume 2567 (2011) Previous day's open izt. 31528 (31350)	123 - 1.1 124 0.58 0.
_	Sep 94.85 94.83 94.95 94.62 Settmetted volume 2567 (2011) Provious day's open int. 31826 (31350) THERE MONTH EMIL SHEET PROM SYN In pulse of PUNK	129 - 1,1 124 0.58 0, 125 0.11 0,1
	Sep 94.85 94.83 94.93 94.92 Estimated volume 2587 (2011) Provious day's open int. 37526 (21360) There movers even states Palone 971 has points of 100%	129 - 1,1 124 0.58 0, 125 0.11 0,1
验	8ep 94.85 94.83 94.85 94.62 Sethested volume 2587 (2011) Provious day's open lat. 21526 (21380) Titles Monte sens sense Packs 9th las points sense Packs 9th las points of 100%. Dec 95.70 95.72 96.97 96.96 New 95.13 96.15 96.11 96.10 Jun 96.17 96.29 96.29 96.20 Sep 96.44 86.45 96.45 96.42 96.29 96.44 86.45 96.45 96.45 96.42	128 - 1,1 124 0,58 0,1 125 0,11 0,1
50,446	Sep 94.85 94.83 94.85 94.62 Estimated volume 2587 (2011) Provious day's open int. 31526 (21380) Tiling Month Emin Shiba Phone Set 1st points of RUPS Closs High Low Prev. Dec 95.70 95.72 95.67 95.66 Mar 95.13 98.15 96.11 96.10 Jun 28.27 96.28 85.28 96.38 96.38	123 - 1. 124 0.58 0. 125 0.11 0. 125 0.15 0. 126 0.15 1. 126 0.15 1. 127 0.15 1. 128 0.15
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12 44 5 11 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sep 94.85 94.83 94.85 94.62	123 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25
100 A	8ep 94.88 94.83 94.63 94.62 Setimated volume 2587 (2011) TRISE MONTH EIRO SERIE PRICE \$\text{Previous day's open int. 37526 (31350)} TRISE MONTH EIRO SERIE PRICE \$\text{Previous day's open int. 500.00 Prev.} Dec 95.70 95.72 96.87 96.87 96.86 Mar 96.13 96.15 96.11 96.10 July 96.13 96.15 96.11 96.10 July 96.13 96.15 96.11 96.10 July 96.13 96.15 96.11 96.10 Sup 96.44 96.45 96.45 96.40 Sup 96.44 96.46 96.45 96.40 Endoated volume 8640 (10441) Provious day's open int. 52394 (82296) THESE MONTH EIROLINA BIT. RATE LIBA 1.006s points of 1005 Class High Low Prev. Dec 91.75 91.30 91.72 91.75 Mar 22.36 24.0 82.34 82.36 Jun 92.72 82.74 82.71 82.72 Sup 92.93 92.96 82.89 92.96 29.95 92.95 92.96 82.96 92.95	123 1.28 0.58 0.11 0.28 0.11 1.28 0.11 0.0 0.11
5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	Sep 94.85 94.83 94.95 94.62	123 1.25 0.58 0.11 0.25 1.25 0.11 1.25 0.11 0.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1
	8ep 94.85 94.83 94.83 94.62 Estimated volume 2587 (2011) Previous day's open int. 371326 (31350) THERE MONTH EIREN SHIRE PRICIE 877 191 points of 10075 Close High Low Prev. Dec 95.70 95.72 96.67 96.66 New 95.13 96.15 96.17 96.66 New 95.13 96.15 96.10 96.10 Sup 96.44 86.46 (10441) Provious day's open int. 32384 (32236) TRESE MONTH EIROLEA BT. RATE LAN 1,000m points of 10075 New High Low Prev. Dec 91.76 91.80 91.72 91.75 New 22.72 82.74 82.71 82.72 Sup 92.38 92.96 82.86 92.86 Estimated volume 2186 (2105) Previous day's open int. 101444 (100874) FT-SE 100 BRESE.	123 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.125 0.11 0.125 0.125 0.11 0.125 0
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LIFTE ENRO SHISSE FRANC OPTIONS SPA to: points of 100% LIFFE INDIA) PETEURES CIPTICAR DIECEO, ACO points of 108% 0ec 1.43 1.03 0.68 0.41 0.23 0.12 0.06 0.03 0.70 0.45 0.23 0.06 0.02 0.01 0.01 0.01 0.03 0.11 0.32 0.55 0.80 1.05 0.42 0.56 0.77 1.00 1.27 1.95 2.34 0.09 0.19 0.34 0.67 0.89 1.28 1.72 2.19 1.14 0.90 0.66 0.43 0.23 0.10 0.05 0.03 1.86 1.50 1.50 1.21 0.84 0.71 0.53 0.39 0.28 Strike Price 9400 9425 9450 9475 9500 9525 9580 9675 Cells-Dec 0.81 0.39 0.20 0.03 0.03 0.01 2.00 1.87 1.37 1.09 0.86 0.50 0.37 ello-estidemento Puls-estidemento
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Logo 1. 2.02 2.64 2.36 2.14 1.92 1.71 1.52 0.66 0.72 0.92 1.14 1.41 1.71 2.05 2.42 LS. TREASURY BONDS (CBT) 8% 100,000 32xds of 100% High Low 121-05 120-18 119-30 119-11 118-23 118-11 117-15 117-11 DEUTECINE MAINK (BUM) DM125,000 & per DM 96.53 96.53 96.52 96.33 96.13 95.76 95.87 95.47 96.50 96.51 96.91 96.73 96.68 96.45 95.28 High 98.55 98.53 96.15 96.78 95.71 95.50 95.32 Prev. 96.56 96.86 96.36 96.14 96.77 96.70 95.49 95.32 Das Mar Jen Sep Dec Jen Jen Sep H#88 FRANC (IMM) Ft 125,000 \$ per SFt Listest High Low Prev. 488.00 488.80 488.75 488.50 470.45 471.30 477.20 MADELPHIA SE 2/3 OFTIONS 11,250 (cents per £1) 200 3.62 4.71 6.14 7.70 9.82 11.48 7.00 5.50 4.25 3.19 2.40 1.74 1.22 0.23 0.83 1.45 2.81 4.89 0.83 0.14 Sett price 124.52 128.92 128.32 124.40 128.80 128.34 Open let 211,844 22,191 2,312 103,172 68,771 48,285 30,997 93.51 94.85 94.83 95.03 G-40 PUTURES (MATE) Stock lades 42,380 2,979 29,186 7,205 2162.0 2176.8 2188.0 47.0 47.0 47.0 47.0 2167.0 2177.5 2101.5 2223.0 65,739 2152.0 2168.0 2178.0 2213.5 11,266 0.06 0.16 0.29 27,408 BASE LENDING RATES will Marigage Brik 6.5

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MONEY MARKETS

Cash stays tight

TIGHT conditions prevailed in the UK money markets yesterday forcing overnight rates high and leading to significant late assistance by the Bank of England, writes Peter John. Dealers said the leading

banks were once again unpre-pared to release collateral in the form of bills. There was some suggestion that issuers of short-term bills - mainly companies needing to borrow cash from commercial banks might be holding back in the belief that they will be able to borrow money at lower rates soon. As a result, the commercial banks may not have had enough bills to take up the offers of Bank of England help.

UK clearing bank base lending rate 6 per cent from January 28, 1993

Belief that base rates are about to fall was also reflected in the three-month interbank rate

which eased slightly.

The daily liquidity shortage
was exacerbated by a large
round of late assistance on Monday. That was repayable yesterday when the initial shortage forecast of £1.25bn was later revised to £1.4bn.

Among the main factors affecting the position were the take-up of Treasury Bills and paper maturing in official hands, which drained £889m, and Exchequer transactions,

which removed £295m. Partly offsetting these was a fall in note circulation injecting £120m into the syste

Estimated volume 9810 (6811) Previous day's open int. 62569 (61716)

* Contracts traded on APT, Closing origin shows.

1-mm. 3-mm. 6-mm. 12-mm. 1.4883 1.4880 1.4759 1.4840

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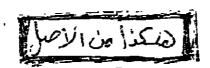
The Bank of England provided £216m of early assistance via bills for resale in equal amounts on November 9 and 10 at 53 per cent. It provided £131m later, buying £12im of band one bank bills at the established 5% per cent rate and £10m of bills for resale on November 9 and 10 at 5 per cent, and a further £492m in the afternoon.

It was not until after the official close that the shortage was finally taken out with late assistance of 2690m at the customary unspecified rate.

December short sterling futures, which reflect the market's view of where rates will be when the contract expires on December 15, remained steady at 94.61 ahead of the latest retail sales figures today. At that level, the contract discounts a half-point

base rate cut, French short-term interest rate futures eased slightly shortly after the official close. Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, the governor of the Bank of France, said the country was still committed to a stable currency and rumours of a move toward a shift in monetary policy were false. The December contract railied later to around 93.57.

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Jan Sala

FINANCIAL TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20 1993 COMPOSITE PRICES NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET ¢ pm clase (latitlet 19 Tel. P. Se Communication of the Communication of th 1983 High Lew Stock 114 15 Underhood L 144 19 Under Crp 3334 21 U Unies Crp 239; 239; Unions Crp 6514 684; Unions Crp 251; 254; Unions Crp 251; 254; Unions 251; 154; US, Million 46 271; US, Million 46 271; US, Million 46 271; US, Million 471; 254; US, Million 482; 271; US, Million 483; 284; US, Million 484; 271; US, Million 485; 284; US, Million 487; 284; US, Million | Section | Sect 16³4 - ¹8 24³4 - 1 25¹8 - ³8 18³8 - ³2 Pressible Pressible Pressible Pressible Pressible Proce Co Price Co Price Per Printroni Prod Ops Protectil Puffizer Purton B Pyramid Ousdral.og Ousderchim Gust Food Ousnium Outclessiv ONC Netwick 22 15-2 8 Anthon Rt 1 23-1 14-5 SCOR US Cp. 30 20 575 Exchan Rt 1 14-5 12-5 Schring Rt 1 12-5 12-5 Schring Rt 1 13-6 Schring R K Swass k-amm Cp 0.44 10 Karcher C 102 22 Kaydon Cp 0.36 13 AddityOu 111 Kethy Sv 0.84 22 KenCanti 0.44 11 Kenthucky 0.11 5 Kinchate 0.84 20 Kinchate 0.84 25 Kinchate 0.85 Kinchate 0.85 Konseloige 8 Komag inc 12 Autobs S 600 -4 - V -56³a 40¹a 47 Corp 26 20⁴a Valers En 11⁴a 7-⁴a Valero Hone 6¹b 23⁴a Stahl ing 21 19³a Nan Dorn II 10⁴b 7⁴a Valero Hol 10⁴b 7⁴a Valero Hol 10⁴a 19⁴a Varon Coa 19⁴a 19⁴a Varon Coa 海塘山野塘 海南北縣 - R -+10 +10 +20 20 -10 LDOS A La Pesse Ladd Furn Lam Roch Lamcater Lance finc Lamcater .1g .13g Eagle Fd Exact Property Fd Eagle Fd EastErwint EG Tel EastErwint EG Tel Becches Becches Becches Emotor Ass Emaler Ch Engraph Earle Stage East Fd East Stage East Fd East Stage East Fd East Stage East Fd East 李中年 一部中一部 +12 -112 -78 Fatt Bip Fire Fig. Fire Fi 有人有情報者 中 人名英西西西西西西西西西西西西西西西西西西西 | 150\(^12\) 110\(^12\ - U -باط خاطئانة G III App 11 101 6½ 8 6¼ -½ 28 2122½ 28½ 28¼ +¾ 1 1500822 2414, 24 Gentos Burnir Pin Bohil Co Bendiss Gent Bind Gentyls Gentschip Gen Mikitantic Mikisotin MikisoGraie Miker H Miker H Miker H Miker H Miker H Miker Tel Modern Co Modine All Modern Co Modine All Modern Co Modine P Mr Coffee MTS Ayu Multimodia Mycogan 小品 小品を大品 -2¹g -14 -2⁷g 梅本は十七八橋と 19年十七十十十 - T -- C -44 AMEX COMPOSITE PRICES 4 pm close October 19 马指马特特 经马拉马特的 ## Stack | Disc. | F | 1800 | High | Low Glose | Children | Child | Harrising A | 121 | 101 | 8 \(\frac{1}{4} \) 1 \(\frac{1}{4} \ - H -Steek Creenplan Cristes Crist FSA Comince Comporter Comporter Comporter Comporter Comporter Comporter Crossed FAA Steel Coa. Vestro Chellone Coa. Vestro Chellone Co. Hellone Co. Hiller Corp. Instructor International Ich Corp. Ic ** *** * *** *** *** *** *** ***** *** *** **</l>**</l>**<li 日本 かななかな かななながれ かな ちょ もな もななる Murrau Ollafi Al Vigari Orisitics A Olstern A - U 1 0.54 19 8841 4412 43 6312 2 2566 612 614 612 +14 3 2566 612 614 612 +14 3 2566 612 614 612 1.58 13 104 5414 532 5414 +12 0.40 13 56 16 1512 16 +14 0.20 19 14 12414 2312 2414 +15 1.40 15 277 44 4314 5312 +14 0.58 11 2741 2612 2512 2514 +14 0.58 11 2741 2612 2512 2514 -14 0.706 766 512 514 513 -14 17 183 1014 1014 1014 8 7 37 37 37 13 432 612 614 612 +16 +4444 US Hither United UCities6s US Trust United St. United S -3g -1g 香中本年 * 中十十二年 12145 -1 -1 -1₄ +1₄ - 1 -IFR Syst ICP Int ICP Countries ICS Intel ICB Countries ICS Intel ICB Countries ICS Intel ICB Countries ICS Intel ICB Countries Intel Intel ICC Intel I 444 本 はちかもなないかって - V -43 286 4877, 6812 6812 0.20 12 121 1512 1514 1514 1514 35 4811 3214 3114 3214 1151 17 3600 1874 1712 1775 118 29 546 1834 1814 1814 1814 11 307 1814 173, 1776 14 41 856 2214 2214 23 112 24 8801 1414 1276 13 114 1,04 8 143 5416 5312 5314 14 Valleylist Valcont Vertione Vicor Vicorpist Viewlogic VLSi Tech ႕ - P - Q 1.00 20 176 63\(^14\) 62\(^16\) 63\(^16\) 63\ 大孩子女 老女母十十九十十七十十日 GET YOUR FT HAND DELIVERED IN OSLO, BERGEN, STAVANGER AND SOON IN TRONDHEIM. | Warmer En | 0.08 | 21 | 573 u28 lg | 23 lg Paccar Pachurlop Pacific T Pacific P Parametr Payche Am Penness Penness I Pe 海北北州北京 七 中海市北京 If you work in the business centres of Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger or Trondheim we'll deliver your daily copy of the FT to your office at no extra cost. Call Bradley Johnson for details on Stockholm +46 8 791 2345.

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AMERICA

US stocks mixed in midsession trading

Wall Street

US share prices were mixed in moderate trading yesterday as investors struggled to digest the implications of good economic news, higher bond yields and the latest quarterly earnings, writes Patrick

Harverson in New York.

At 1 pm. the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 5.59 at 3,647.90. The more broadly based Standard & Poor's 500 was 0.50 lower at 467.95, while the Amex composite was down 2.62 at 478.48, and the Nasdaq composite down 5.63 at 777.28 on profit-taking. Trading volume on the NYSE was 164m shares by 1 pm.

In recent weeks secondary and broader indices have outperformed the Dow as investors searched for inexpensive stocks and shied away from the shares of companies whose earnings are tied closely to economic cycles. This trend pushed the S&P 500, the Amex composite and the Nasdaq

composite to record highs. while the Dow stayed below its all-time peak.

In the last two days, however, the trend has been reversed, with Dow stocks faring well and secondary and other issues falling from their recent summits. This partly explains why Dow and cyclical stocks were mostly firmer by early afternoon yesterday as the shares of mid-sized and small companies and growthoriented technology firms lan-

Another reason why the markets failed to make a deci-sive move in any direction yesterday was the conflicting influences of good economic news - housing starts rose strongly in September - and higher bond yields. Also, the latest round of corporate earnings reports were a mix of the good and the bad.

Among individual stocks, Philip Morris fell \$11/2 to \$52% in volume of 2.3m shares after the group announced a 25 per cent drop in net income for the third quarter and warned about further difficulties in the fourth quarter.

Citicorp rose \$% to \$361/2 in volume of 3m shares on news of a sharp improvement in third quarter earnings to 97 cents a share. Other banks were also higher on strong quarterly results, including Wells Fargo, which jumped \$2% to \$119% and Chemical Banking, up \$1/4 at \$42.

A range of industrial stocks lifted the Dow, among them Caterpillar, up \$1% at \$82%, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, up \$1% at \$46% and Sears, Roebuck, up \$1% at \$57.

Canada

TORONTO eased further in quiet midday trading as broadbased profit-taking took most

sectors lower.
The TSE-300 composite index fell 11.62 to 4,177.09 in turnover of 27.2m shares valued at C\$273m. Declines led advances 345 to 271, with 290 stocks flat.

Continental bourses consolidate gains further DKr2 to DKr474, following the announcement that

MANY of the continent's bourses took a breather yesterday from the bull run, writes Our Markets Staff.

FRANKFURT took a pause from its record breaking ways with most analysts commenting that the current rally still has a long way to go. Opinion remained divided as to whether the Bundesbank would cut interest rates at its regular council meeting tomorrow. Some commentators said yesterday that they believed a cut would not happen until the release of M3 and inflation data, due out over the next few days; and that November was the most probable date for an

The DAX index moved from an intraday low of 2,021 to close down 6.56 at 2,026.76, Turnover was DM9.8bnbn, with institutional funds reported to have stayed on the sidelines. In a day bereft of corporate news BMW staged a turnaround with a gain of DM12 to DM613: the stock has been lagging behind other motor sector

dominated by public fund and

Volume was 208.7m shares,

against 218m. Losers led gain-

ers by 595 to 328, with 244

issues unchanged, and the Topix index of all first section stocks shed 4.23 to 1,644.46. In

London the ISE/Nikkei 50

index edged up 0.71 to 1.280.94.

investors were unwilling to

ing stock, many were still

reluctant to buy shares due to

the prolonged recovery of the Financials, telecommunica-

tions and non-life insurance

stocks were the leading losers

of the day.
Profit-taking left Daiwa Securities down Y40 at Y1,400 after

having been recently bought

on its upward revision of

interim earnings. Other bro-

kers also weakened, with

Nomura Securities receding

Y40 to Y1,990 and Nikko Secu-

The telecom sector, which

had risen on the merger

between Bell Atlantic and Tele-

GOLD shares saw strong early

gains cut back by the close as

the bullion price failed to hold overnight levels, but the index still finished 43 ahead at 1,750.

The industrial index gained 5

at 4,519 and the overall index

DOLLAR INDEX

rities Y10 to Y1,200.

SOUTH AFRICA

added 15 at 3.916.

Traders said that while

ASIA PACIFIC

Tokyo

low suit.

In contrast Volkswagen shed DM7.00 to DM375.20 and Daimler DM6.50 to DM740.00.

PARIS staged firm although turnover slipped back from the level seen at the start of the week. The CAC-40 index added 2.33 to 2.147.32 after a day's high of 2,150 and a low of 2,137. Turnover was estimated at FFr3.3bn after Monday's

FFr4.5bn. EuroDisney shed a further FFr1.55 to FFr51.65 as seiling appreciated after its recent news of job cuts. James Capel in London commented that while the redundancy scheme will have a one off negative impact on profits, the news had already been largely dis-counted. "The more pressing problem is its future funding," the brokers said.

FFr708 ahead of reporting a first half profit of FFr79m against FFr108m in the same year ago period after the close Elf Aquitaine regained FFT4.10 to FFT438.10 as it

Bouygues was down FFr4 at

announced that it was planning to restart production at its Nigerian facility.

AMSTERDAM remained in

positive territory with the CBS Tendency index at one point going reaching a new record

consecutive days of gains, and

- Actuaries Share Indices FT-SE THE EUROPEAN SERIES Open 11.30 12.00 13.00 14.00 15.00 16.00 Close October 19 1347.14 1345.52 1346.08 1346.10 1345.71 1343.95 1345.25 1346.27 Hourly changes 1415.93 1414.79 1415.08 1414.89 1413.97 1411.78 1414.54 1414.64 FT-SE Eurotrack 160 FT-SE Eurotrack 200 Oct 13 Oct 15 Oct 18 1317.05 1315.57 FT-SE Eurotrack 100 FT-SE Eurotrack 200 1330.52 1391.36 1391.70 1407.10 1418.14

Base value 1000 (28/10/90) High Ville: 100 - 1947,14; 200 - 1415.97 Lamelium: 100 - 1343.50 200 - 1410.66. current trading month, and the high, before closing 0.4 higher Comit index eased 0.94 to

nt 132.5. Akzo was one of the day's main losers, falling Fl 2.40 or Fl 184.40, as some investors booked profits after reaching a

new record high on Monday. ZURICH encountered profittaking after its run of seven consecutive record highs, and the SMI index finished 2.9 lower at 2,660.7 as some of the early losses were pared. Nestlé continued as the most

SFR2 to SFr1,174. CS Holding, whose shares are viewed by some analysts as undervalued, rose SFr15 to

activeley traded stock, adding

MILAN turned lower, the market held back by the burden of cash calls during the

Hong Kong pauses after 20.9 per cent surge

tric, another railway signal

In Osaka, the OSE average

maker, firmed Y10 to Y1,280.

dipped 45.84 to 22,199.95 in vol-

Rentokil of the UK. STOCKHOLM gave way to profit-taking which left the Affärsvärlden index 0.8 lower

at 1.397.0 in heavy trading The market had opened firm before a wave of selling in Astra and Ericsson shares sent

was reducing its stake in

the market lower. Ericsson B shares retreated SKr9 to SKr457 while Astra A

shares slipped SKr2 to SKr1811 Interest rate sensitive banks and insurers put in a better performance. S-E Banken A shares added SKr2 to SKr57.

BRUSSELS saw profit-taking which left the Bel-20 index 5.10 lower at 1,375.86 in turnover of BFr2.16bn. Analysts believe that talks on the social pact, which are scheduled to begin in coming days are unlikely to have much impact on the man ket. However, they added that foreigners were likely to to be ready to pick up shares if Belgian investors became sellers. due to fears about the outcome of the talks.

Written and edited by John Pitt and Michael Morgan.

stocks traded over the counter.

The Straits Times Industrial

KUALA LUMPUR rebounded

strongly during the afternoon

as investors returned to seek

bargains after Monday's falls

The composite index closed

BOMBAY traded higher in a

special trading session after the resolution of the broken

index lost 7.88 at 2,108.26.

Brazil ahead in early trading as Mexico declines

BRAZIL was stronger at midsession, with the Bovespa index in São Paulo up 2.7 per cent, following a fall of some 9.5 per cent on Monday. Observers said that equities were likely to remain volatile over the next few days.

Telebras, the telecoms group, was one of the day's gainers, rising 2.8 per cent. Mexico eased on profit-taking, having set lost ground in New York dealings.

record highs in three consecutive sessions. The IPC index was down 5.93 at 1,985.68. Stocks have risen steadily over the past two weeks as investors have been drawn to an undervalued equity market and as the Nafta no longer appeared to be a paralysing force. The market was led lower by Telmex, which

Greek equities weather change of government

Kerin Hope on the mood in post-election Athens

he Athens stock market has weathered last week's change of government in Greece with unex-

pected resilience. The opposition socialists' victory in the October 10 general election provoked a rush of gloomy economic predictions. Some appeared to be confirmed when Mr Andreas Papandreou, the new prime minister. declared that the planned sale of 49 per cent of OTE, the state telecommunications monopoly,

was being called off. Cancellation will mean revenue losses amounting to more than Dr300bn (\$1.2bn), bringing the government's dorrowin requirement for 1993 to around 13 per cent of GDP, against a

target of 10.8 per cent. The sale of a 35 per cent stake in OTE to a foreign telecoms operator was forecast to raise at least Dr220bn, while the flotation of another 14 per cent on the bourse had been unofficially valued at Dr90bn. Since plunging some 14 per cent after the election was announced, the index has climbed back steadily, closing

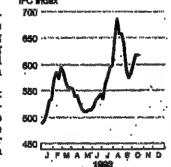
yesterday at 852. Although the market has failed to match its midsummer peak, when it reached 955, it is still 28 per cent up from the start of the year.

Buying from abroad continues to drive equities, as local investors find interest rates averaging close to 20 per cent on short-term Treasury bills a more attractive proposition. Some European institutional investors cashed in their gains when the election was called, but US fund managers continued buying.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS

Mr Dimitris Verroiopoulos, an analyst at Alpha Brokerage, said: "Greek equities are good value, with p/e ratios at 10 to 13 per cent, compared to other emerging markets."

The market's confidence is based on the assumption that the new government will maintain its predecessor's commitment to reducing inflation and the public sector deficit under



the Maastricht requirements Analysts also seem convinced that the socialists will reverse their privatisation pol-icy, at least where partial flotations of state enterprises are concerned, in order to raise

funds for investment. Mr John Markopoulos, chairman of Sigma Securities, said: "Our perception is that the government will soon be needing cash for OTE's modernisa-tion programme. The con-straints on public spending will oblige them to turn to the stock market, and we expect a minority stake in the company

MONDAY OCTOBER 18 1993

to be floated next year." The optimistic mood is underpinned by anticipation of

a flood of EC funding for infrastructure projects, starting early in 1994. With EC inflows expected to total between Ecul7hn and Ecu20hn over the next six years, construction, cement and building equipment companies should benefit. Three construction companies, likely candidates for contracts to be awarded under the new EC funding package, are seeking listings next month. Aegek is to raise Dr1.9bn. Proodeftiki Dr2.1bn

and Themeliodomi Dr1.5bn the Dourse. Given these companies' prospects for growth, and the small size of the issues, demand is expected to be lively. However, so long as interest rates stay high, the outlook is less promising for bigger companies con-

sidering large rights issues. First-half profits were lower than forecast, even in the food sector where the recession had previously made little impact on sales. In the banking sector, where steady if unspectacular gains were recorded, caution

ommercial Bank, the second-largest state bank, covered a Dr45bn of a planned Dr50bn rights issue launched last month, with many small shareholders said to be reluctant to participate. Following the election, Credit Bank, the country's largest private bank, decided to postpone a Dr30bn rights Issue which included a sizeable tranche offered to institutions

PRIDAY OCTOBER 15 1983

lost ground. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone declined Y16,000 to Y894,000 after three SHARE prices remained almost flat after a volatile session

arbitrage buying and profiton the second section. taking by dealers, writes Emiko Other telecom linked issues Terazono in Tokyo. were also easier, with Oki Electric, the day's most active The Nikkei average lost 2.30 at 20,069.91 after a low of issue, down Y1 to Y562 and Fujitsu losing Y4 to Y863. Entertainment related stocks 20.042.40 in the morning and a high of 20,204.02 in the after-

retreated on reports that police The index firmed immediwere investigating Heiwa, a ately after the opening on pubpachinko (Japanese pinball) machine maker listed on the lic fund buying, and declined thereafter before rising again second section, for illegally modifying its game machines. Heiwa fall Y140 to Y4,100 and on purchases by arbitrageurs. After peaking in the afternoon, dealers, who built up long posi-Sega Enterprises, which suptions together with buying by plies electronic games to public funds, liquidated posi-Helwa, lost Y30 to Y9,870. Kontions as other institutional ami, another video machine investors were reluctant to folmaker, declined Y130 to Y3,870. JR East linked stocks gained

ground. Nippon Signal rose

DDI slipping Y50,000 to Y6.73m. ume of 17.5m shares. Roundup MANY Pacific Rim markets took a pause after the recordbreaking rums of recent days. HONG KONG gave up 1.9 per

cent after the bull run that has seen a cumulative rise since September 28 of 20.9 per cent. The Hang Seng index relinquished 169.72 to 8,861.41 in turnover that dipped to HK\$9.04bn from Monday's Mr Michael Franklin of James Capel commented that

the market had begun to look vulnerable to a short-term consolidation when the index breached the 9,000 level. How-

ever, he believed that US and Japanese investors remained enthusiastic and would continue to provide liquidity for a further advance.

Fiat fell L145 or 3.6 per cent

to L3,855: the shares had risen

by 10 per cent rise over the

previous two sessions since its

Against the downward trend,

the new Ferruzzi shares added

L1,533 to L51,278 after their

recent sharp falls. Montedison

VIENNA was modestly

firmer with some profit-taking

in evidence. The ATX index

put on 0.67 points to 1,078.23

with Flughafen Wien down

another 0.23 in the KFX index

to 100.79 but Sophus Berendsen

built on Monday's fall, off a

COPENHAGEN put on

rights issue began.

rose L11 to L837.30.

Sch13 at Sch531.

MANILA declined for the first time in eight days, the composite index shedding 28.96 to 2,158.99 as PLDT lost 30

pesos to 1,320 pesos.

TAIPEI fell 2.3 per cent in reaction to news that the Finance Ministry and ruling party legislators had agreed to delay consideration of a stock transaction tax cut until January. The weighted index ended

91.92 off at 3,970.18. AUSTRALIA was dragged lower by industrial stocks and weaker futures market. The All Ordinaries index slipped

10.0 to 2.075.5. SINGAPORE saw an end of the record-setting run of the previous six sessions after heavy selling of Malaysian strike which had kept the man ket closed for the previous for trading days. The BSE 30-shape index added 9.37 at 2,720.29. KARACHI rose sharply to

11.63 ahead at 926.16.

response to Ms Benazir Elmi to's return as prime minister, writes Farhan Bokhari. The KSE-100 index advanced 16.58 to 1,450.33.

Ms Bhutto is expected to continue with a recent package of economic reforms which was introduced by Mr Moeen Queshi, the interim premier.

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NATWEST MARKETS Corporate & Investment Banking

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FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

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Limitless possibilities from new box of risk-management tricks Page 2

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

DERIVATIVES

How to cut the cost . of making hamburgers Page 11

Wednesday October 20 1993

The development of derivatives business has become the most important strategic goal of the 1990s for banks and securities houses with global ambitions. Tracy Corrigan examines one of the most dynamic growth areas in financial markets

Moving on to centre stage

ONLY three years into the decade, the 1990s are already being dubbed the decade of derivatives. Virtually all banks, securities houses and other financial institutions with international ambitions have identified the derivatives market as a crucial strategic

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Non-financial companies are making increasing use of derivatives to hedge their exposure to foreign exchange and interest rate fluctuations. Slower off the mark, institutional investors are also starting to warm to derivative instruments, which can be particularly useful for asset allocation.

At the same time, the new emphasis on derivatives is having a strong impact on other areas within the banking and securities business, fuelling, for example, advances in tech-hology, and causing banks to reassess their attitudes to risk.

"The strategic question to ask about any bank right now is: have they embraced deriva-tives? And if not, have they found anything else to embrace instead?" says one analyst.

The market has already come through a period of rapid development. The notional amount of futures contracts traded annually on the world 's exchangés la around \$140,000bn, while the notional amount of over-the-counter swaps outstanding is about \$4.500bn.



Patrick de Saint-Aignen: the pace

Futures and options listed on exchanges are standardised contracts, based on an underlying market, which are traded on and cleared through an

Over-the-counter products, such as swaps and options, can be tailored to suit a particular user's needs, and are bilateral agreements between two separate counterparties.

There are now liquid futures contracts based on most of the world's large stock and bond markets. In some cases, the futures markets are more actively traded than the under-

lying instruments on which they are based. New markets are still developing in Asia and Latin America, but in the US, and to a lesser extent in Europe, futures exchanges are already highly

developed.
"The real emphasis has to be on organic growth," said Mr Daniel Hodson, chief executive of the London International Financial Futures Exchange, who admits that after establishing a range of European products over the past 10 years the universe of potentially active new contracts has

Futures exchanges are now trying to adapt products from the over-the-counter market, so that they can offer standar-dised contracts which have some of the flexibility of the OTC market.

For example, the Chicago Board Options Exchange's flex options, which allow standard contracts to be adjusted to suit individual needs, are being imitated by other US exchanges. The line between standardized contracts and highly customised OTC products has become blurred.

"Some would say we compete (with the exchanges) but I see a complementary relation-ship from which the financial markets benefit. Risks we take from our clients often flow back to the exchanges," says Mr Joseph Bauman, head of business development, global derivatives, at Citibank, and chairman of the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA), the over-the counter market's trade associa tion. Industry experts believe there is room for further growth, especially in the less mature over-the-counter mar-

"If you look at the compound annual growth rates of notional principal volume (in swaps) - 35 per cant per annum for the past three or four years - it's hard to foresee this pace continuing forever, but growth rates will stay high because the community of users continues to expand," said Mr Bauman of Citibank. Many market participants are confident because they believe that, particularly outside the



US, only a small portion of the potential base of fund managers and corporate treasurers has so far been tapped.

"It's like being a car manufacturer, at a time when only 5 per cent of the population has learned to drive," said one spe-cialist. But there is no doubt that the market is becoming increasingly competitive, and products which were once at the cutting edge are now widely available, and at tighter

margins.
"The pace of innovation will ularly when they have stolen the march on their competitors remain high as dealers continue to devote a large amount temporarily. "The rate of market's growth and about

of resources to new products," predicts Mr Patrick de Saintgrowth is slowing but the base Aignan, chairman of Morgan Stanley SA in Paris, and a senior member of the Group of Thirty committee which ISDA. recently reported on the derivatives market. "This is an However, he identifies a

activity where the dealers have a solution-oriented approach rather than trying to push standardised products." One reason for this is that banks can charge higher fees for innovative products, partic-

it is growing from is getting bigger," said Mr Malcolm Basing, president of SBC Canada and a former chairman of

number of areas where growth potential remains strong, such as commodity swaps and perhaps insurance or credit deriv-

As well as fending off competitors, the derivatives industry has also come under attack from regulators, who are concarned about the speed of the

potential systemic risk to the banking system. However, a number of

reports this year, for example from the Bank of England, have adopted a more concilia-tory tone. "I would not charac-terise what they [the regulators! have done as backing off. They have taken a major look at derivative activities over the past year and there has been a tempering of the rhetoric that characterised early 1992," said

The Group of Thirty report on derivatives published earlier this year set out detailed guidelines on how to manage the risks involved.

"We are still very much under a regulatory glare, but we have convinced them it's a worthwhile business and that it can be managed effectively,' said Mr Basing. "We still have to convince them that it is possible for controls to be put in place by smaller players down the line which may have fewer resources.'

However, the much lamented regulatory scrutiny has undoubtedly had some positive ettecia.

First of all, it has concentrated the attention of bankers at board level, some of whom had risen through the ranks in a pre-derivatives era.

Second, the development of risk management techniques for derivatives has in many cases been applied to other areas of banking. "There has been a real awakening to the need to manage risk through-out an institution," said Mr Paul Reyniers, the Coopers & Lybrand partner in charge of global risk management. "If they [banks] can manage risk they have the key tool for capital allocation."

While the continued growth of the market seems certain, it is more difficult to predict the technological changes which will accompany its development. Although the technology of futures trading systems has already advanced substantially, many traders say that no electronic system yet replicates conditions in a trading

However, many traders do believe that electronic trading of some sort will be an increas-

IN THIS SURVEY ☐ Interest-rate products ☐ The sell side: commercial and investment banks Page 2 □ Currency products ☐ Legal issues Page 4 ☐ Commodity products □ Equity products Page 5 □ Futures exchanges ☐ Clearing Page 5 Futures funds □ Technology Page 7 ☐ Regulation Page 3 □ Japan ☐ Hong Kong Page 9 ☐ Meddco ☐ Emerging markets Page 10 ☐ Profiles: □ Swiss Bank Corporation ☐ McDone/d's □ London Clearing House Page 11

ingly inherent part of the derivatives market in years to

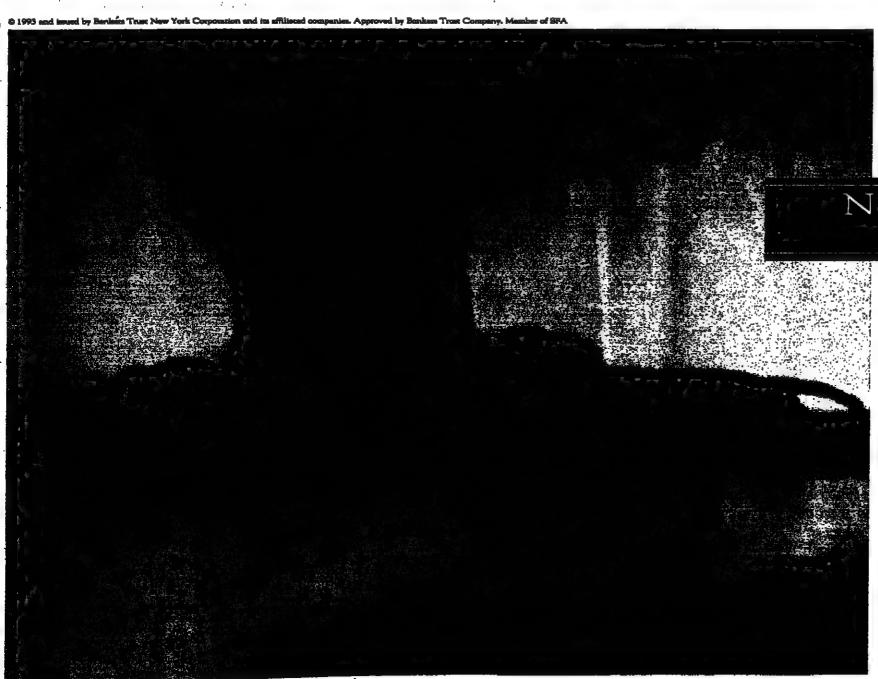
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☐ Glossarv

Globex, the 24-hour futures trading system jointly developed by Reuters the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade, is yet to establish itself as a global network for trading outside normal exchange hours. But if CME chairman Mr Jack Sandner's vision of "a global trading village" is eventually realised, it could prove a vehicle for a further net increase in trading



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Laurie Morse on the burgeoning market in interest-rate derivatives

A two-pronged development

INTEREST rates are hitting as corporate treasurers, locked rock bottom, the US government is serious about trimming its deficit, and portfolio managers, stung by unthinkably low returns, are baling out of the bond markets for more profitable venues.

Does this mean the burgeoning markets in interest-rate derivatives, one of the more stunning financial phenomena of the eighties, are close to peaking? No, say dealers. Fixed income derivatives, which are proliferating rapidly, are thriving on the uncertainty created by a 300-basis-point drop in US interest rates in a year, the volatility in European currency differentials following the demise of the ERM, and a massive restructuring of corporate

Last year US corporate treasurers moved en masse to switch fixed-rate obligations, which looked very attractive only a few months earlier, to lower-cost floating rate debt... Even the US government, confident of its own ability to keep inflation low, shifted its debt sales to shorter maturities. The chenomenon is now hitting Surope as rates there fall.

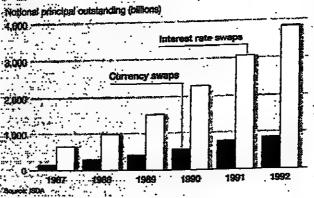
To hear some bankers tell it. on a quiet day in London you can almost hear the scurrying

into fixed-rate debt at 8 and 9 per cent, rush to swap into adjustable-rate deals, to take advantage of falling interest rates. Reversing once-attractive fixed rate deals is expensive, although they ultimately lower financing costs, and dealers have become creative about embedding option-like features into the contracts to bring down their cost.

"Interest rate derivatives are developing into a two-pronged market," says Mr Leon Tatevossian, vice-president for derivatives research at Salo-mon Brothers. "New products are evolving to meet ever more complicated risk management needs, while the use of structured transactions by asset nanagers to enhance portfolio vields is another big growth Once the province of US gov-

ernment securities dealers who used the Chicago interest-rate futures and options pits to hedge their wholesale bond purchases, the use of deriva-tives trickled down from banks to corporate treasurers, then to asset managers, and now even to individuals seeking higher yields by investing in derivative-driven mutual funds. Derivatives dealers who once

interest rate and currency swap



focused exclusively on designing vehicles for customers who wanted to hedge liabilities are now reaching out to asset managers who are beginning to use manufactured securities as investments. Shrewd futures traders have been speculating in derivatives for years, but for the portfolio manager who does not want to be exposed to daily market moves, a tailored

Creating a healthy "buy side" audience for structured debt will provide balance to although some critics say asset

Richard Waters looks at the sell side: commercial and investment banks

over-the-counter deal is more

suitable than an exchange

managers, by piling into the instruments in a frantic search for yield, could get burned if there is an unexpected interest rate shock.

And the liability-manage ment side of the derivative utility equation is nowhere near being exhausted, in the US or

In the US, a new accounting regulation known as FAS 115 is likely to pull conservative regional bankers, insurance companies, and other capitalsensitive businesses who have resisted the trend, into the derivatives fold.

The regulation. becomes effective in January

1994, requires that securities be classified as either "held to maturity", "available for sale", or "held for trading". Securities in either of the two latter categories must be regularly marked to market, a factor that makes them suddenly vulnerable to even small fluctuations in long-term interest

rates. The new requirements are expected to throw many more securities into the "available for sale" accounting bin, and while the marked-to market process will not show through on income statements, it will affect equity and capital requirements.

"A company that is capitalsensitive will have to keep a closer eye on what is happening in the available-for-sale account. Its just one more risk they'll have to manage," says Marjorie Marker, a senior manager and derivatives specialist for Arthur Andersen.

She believes derivatives will play a large part in helping these companies mitigate this new market risk. However, conservative organisations, mainly small banks, will simply move assets into shorter maturities, an action that will trim the margins they now reap in the spread between borrowing customer funds at 3 per cent interest and lending them to the government at 6

per cent. Far from stealing business from organised futures and options exchanges, the evolution and diversification of interest-rate derivatives has fuelled tremendous growth in exchange-traded products. Even the most exotic swaps. and structured notes designed for a single customer are even-tually distilled into a risk a dealer will hedge in a futures

or options pit. Sometimes, when the custom transactions are for long maturity periods or require frequent rate adjustments, the over-thecounter deal will be hedged and covered and re-hedged

repeatedly on an exchange. This helps explain why the total notional value of interestrate swaps outstanding at the end of 1992, at \$3,800bn, as reported by the trade group ISDA, was smaller than the same measure of current open positions in US-exchangetraded interest-rate derivatives, and far smaller than the value of exchange-traded government debt worldwide.

The exchanges are best described as wholesale debtmanagement markets, and their growth rates expand in concert with custom-tailored

derivatives. The Chicago Mercantile Exchange had a 14.2 per cent year-over-year growth rate in interest-rate futures and options at the end of the third quarter, while at the Chicago Board of Trade, interest-rate transactions grew by 17.8 per cent. That compares with ISDA estimates that over-the-counterinterest rate swaps, in all currencies, grew at a 19 per cent rate last year.

IT IS ONE of the great paradoxes of the derivatives industry. Some leading US commercial banks, battered in the 1980s by excessive concentrations of lending to

selves up in the 1990s as experts in risk Is an industry which proved so lax in controlling its own risks - and which has been bailed out only by the lowest US

interest rates in memory - really in a position to advise others on theirs? The banks say they have emerged stronger and wiser from the experience of the 1980s. "Banks have learned as an industry that concentration is not a good thing," says Mr Peter Hancock, head of derivatives at JP Morgan, a bank which came through the excesses of the 1980s better than most.

Bankers Trust remains the most extreme example of the phenomenon which has turned banks from pools of risk themselves into providers of risk management instruments. Stuck with third world debt and bridge loans which it was unable to sell on through the securities markets, the US's seventh biggest banking group

third world countries, the property sector and leveraged buy-outs, have set them-

New box of risk-management tricks (in terms of assets) slumped to a near-\$1bn loss in 1989. Yet the experience coincided capital charge applied internally.)

with an early move into derivative mar-The re-emergence of risk-taking in commercial banks has been most pronounced kets which left Bankers Trust as the most in the swaps markets. They may have profitable commercial bank in the US last retreated from commercial lending in the year, with a return on equity of 23 per 1990s (in part because the strongest com-Not surprisingly, derivatives and risk panies can raise money at better rates management are now virtually a religion direct from the capital markets), but this inside Bankers Trust. "It's not a product – has not stopped banks taking on new it's more a way of life," says Mr Brian Walsh, head of derivatives. The most obvicredit risks. As counterparties to swap transactions, most banks have been ous embodiment of this: the bank's muchadding off-balance sheet credit exposure to emulated method of allocating capital replace shrinking on-balance sheet risks. based on an analysis of both credit and Mr Hancock calls it "the rebirth of bank market risk through a unified model. intermediation". It has provided a route Known as "raroc" (for "risk-adjusted for banks to reinvent themselves as credit return on capital"), this capital-allocation model was adjusted a year ago to take more account of the liquidity risk implicit institutions - and this time, they claim, the risks are being spread more evenly through the system.

Bankers Trust, which invested earlier

than most in the people and technology needed to run a derivatives business, and JP Morgan, with its strong balance sheet and good relationships with many big companies, have been the most profitable "money centre" banks in the US this year. Much of this is due to derivatives, though neither bank reports profits from deriva-

tives separately.

To hear these banks talk, their new box of risk management tricks offers almost limitless possibilities. Most big decisions taken by their corporate customers - such as whether to build a new factory, or buy another company - involve the taking of many different business and market risks. Through the derivatives markets (whether currency, interest rate or commodity) those risks can be split apart and managed separately. Mr Walsh points to one example: the ability to lock into a fixed oil price

for up to 10 years. "That must have a profound effect on the way oil companies

are run," he says. If companies respond to these blandishments, then the most successful intermediaries in the derivatives markets will be those best able to act as the lightning conductors through which risk is transfered from one group to another. The ability to price and hedge exposures - many of which, unlike equities or fixed income securities, have no underlying cash market - will also be an important determi-

nant of future profits. Risk-management skills learned in the equity, currency or fixed income derivatives markets are already taking commercial banks into new areas. Insurance could prove the next great opportunity. The risk transfer mechanism in the insurance industry is dominated by a limited number

of large institutions, whether insurers or reinsurers. Much like the banking industry, these institutions carry large exposures and are vulnerable to unforeseen events: one big US hurricane, say, could wipe out a whole year's property/casualty

insurance profits in one go. Through the same risk-transfer mechanism pioneered in other derivative markets, both Bankers Trust and JP Morgan say they are already linking the exposures in the insurance industry to the wider. capital markets. According to Mr Hancock: "Just as derivatives have brought regional capital markets together, it will help to connect that [insurance] market with others. It leaves you with a bigger pool of risk takers to absorb the shocks.

The effect on the giants of the insurance industry could be profound. "It's the last area in financial services to go through significant change," says Mr Walsh, though he hesitates to suggest that the capital markets will eventually prove a better mechanism for transfering insurance risks than the insurance companies. It is not surprising, therefore, to see some big insurers moving into the deriva-

tives markets themselves.

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in different types of asset, Mr Walsh says



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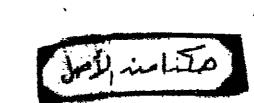
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SINCE THE late 1980s, the trade in currency derivative products has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the foreign exchange business. But successive crises in the European exchange rate mechanism in the past year have given this sector a stimulus that few

dealers could have anticipated. Until a few years ago, the personnel on a bank's derivatives desk were often regarded as unusual figures - more akin to rocket scientists than currency traders. In its infancy, the currency derivatives market was a supply-led business, with banks spending huge sums on the research and development of products which, they hoped, would

AS DERIVATIVES transactions metamorphosed at a dizzying rate in the 1980s, turning bonds and options into swaps and swaptions, strips and tigers, with collars and floors, they mutated beyond traditional securities regulation, and put themselves into a land of legal limbo.

Financial engineers driving quirky softwear on powerful Sun workstations have not only left stodgy bond traders the dust, they have befuddled regulators unaccustomed to dealing with hybrid financial

The fact that derivative deals represent thousands of billions of dollars in capital and regularly cross political borders makes the legal wrangles, and their accompanying risk, all the more onerous.

Recognising that banking and trading laws were written long before there were overthe counter derivatives, banks are working to seal the gaps left where derivative transac tions do not fit into old-fashioned legal categories. The problems of defining what derivatives are, who is allowed to trade them, and how to enforce standard agreements designed to reduce transaction risks are all hot issues in hanking.

The ubiquitous interest rate swaps, for example, risk being judged illegal under the gambling laws of countries as diverse as France, Brazil, Canada and Japan, and until recently, under the commodities regulations of the United States. In some countries swaps risk has been classified as usurious, and is illegal. Mr Dan Cunningham, part-

five years gave currency deriv-But it was the recent crises atives an initial boost. Institutions such as pension funds and insurance funds have greatly increased their purchase of overseas assets in

in the ERM that led to an explosion of interest in this The departure of sterling and

established exchange rates.

The growing participation of chased derivative products over much wider areas, inves-

cent increase in the use of these products over the past 12 months," said Mr Patrick Allaway, managing director of Global Foreign Exchange at the Italian lira from the system in the autumn of 1992 was fol-Swiss Bank Corporation in lowed by the momentous deci-London. "Institutions are facsion to widen the bands for ing volatility in European most ERM currencies to 15 per cross-rates for the first time. and that is making derivative cent on August 2 of this year. With currencies fluctuating products much more attrac-

CURRENCY PRODUCTS

ERM crises quicken activity

which allow them to lock in to tors have rushed to hedge their

One of the principal instruments that investors use is the forward contract, which allows him or her to purchase or sell a currency at an exchange rate that is set at a fixed date in the

The other popular alternative is the currency "option". This gives the customer the opportunity to buy or sell a currency if it should "strike" a certain exchange rate. The contract is paid for by means of a

Banking Supervision of the Bank for International Settlements in April released a proposal to recognise bilateral close-out netting as a means of reducing credit risk for the

ments on the plan. A controversial offshoot of the netting discussion is the idea of multibranch netting. A financial institution with operations and assets worldwide will choose a location, for tax or other purposes, in which to register a swaps

purpose of measuring bank capital adequacy. It is now

If an institution finds itself in collapse, as happened in the case of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, world bank regulators may wrangle over the proper way to deal with the remains, putting the integrity of the net-ting agreements in jeopardy.

Mr Cunningham says the issues of enforcability of multibranch netting have gained attention since the BCCI case. A derivatives report issued in July by the Washington-based think-tank, the Group of Thirty, suggests a solution. "Resolution will come only if and when it is clear that insolvency of a bank with several branches in different countries will be handled as a single proceeding and not as separate proceedings for the bank and

each branch," he says. others like it, leans towards standard global financial regulation, an evolution that legal demands of derivatives trading may accelerate.

premium which is set by the hank.

The main customers for these instruments tend to be leading institutional investors or multinationals with payments and receiveables in different currencies. It is selective clientele – and that may be derivative products are not cheap. There are two reasons for this:

The increase in exchange rate volatility in recent years has made it riskier for banks to write options. In August 1992 and July 1993 - the height of the ERM crises - premiums were selling at some three times above their normal levels. The volatility has subsided, but premiums on European currency options are still

■ Second, options can be expensive because they are often tailor-made for a particular customer. Options can be bought on an exchange, but the most attractive variants are over-the-counter ontions (OTCs) which a bank designs for an institution's particular

seeking international com-According to Mr Allaway, the most attractive options today are "basket" options. which allow a currency to be hedged against a group of European currencies. That option might be bought by a customer who is unsure what specific trades he will be making in European currencies over a given period of time. Another popular variant is

"down-and-out" option. This allows a customer to let the option lapse if the exchange rate moves in a direction which is favourable to him. The attraction of these options is their lower pre-

However, if these are tools increasingly used by the principal customers, then they are also being provided by an ever smaller élite of commercial

The research and development investment required to be at the forefront of the derivatives business is so great that only a handful of players can afford it. Mr Allaway says that some 90 per cent of the turn-over of the business is controlled by just six banks with a strong presence in London and their market share is increasing.

Moreover, banks have to be very careful about participating in a business where losses can - theoretically - be astronomical. In the ERM crisis of Laurie Morse | September 1992, some French

to 15% after heavy speculative pressure Sterling and Lira

Lira

French Franc per CM

banks were thought to have been extremely badly burned by the exposure of their derivatives teams to exchange rate movements

So, successful option teams need to have very clear management structures around the business. They also have to provide sufficient capital to edge the "underlying" moves that follow the writing of any

The banks are confident that they can manage this business. But governments and central bankers are increasingly con-cerned about the possibilities of a credit default in the derivatives sector that would destabilise markets.

Earlier this year the Bank for International Settlements said that it might extend the amount of cash cover that commercial banks had to set against the risks that were being taken in their derivatives operations.

the growth of the derivatives market could intensify the flows in spot foreign exchange markets in a way that would also be destabilising.

At the moment, the options business accounts for around 3 per cent of total turnover in foreign exchange. But some currency managers believe that this is enough to impact some 10 per cent of the total flows in the spot market. Some dealers believe that if

options were to account for a 10 per cent share of all turnover, these instruments would be generating around half of all the flows in the market. There is a danger that this would create extreme volatility at certain times, providing another headache for centra bankers who are trying to regulate the operations of foreign exchange dealers.

James Blitz

LEGAL ISSUES

Quest for definitive answers

vath, Swaine and Moore and counsel to the International Swap and Derivatives Association, says tremendous progress has been made in these areas. and that clarifying legislation is being sought in countries where the line of the law is cloudy.

institutional investors in cur-

rency dealing over the past

They have been keen to

hedge the exposure of these

assets - like bonds and equi-

ties - to exchange rate moves.

That is why they have pur-

recent years.

Changes in the legal environment have come in important areas. US commodity reg nlators this year declared that swaps were exempt from futures regulations, wiping away a huge legal uncertainty in the US. Australia is considering similar legal adjust-

In France, national financial authorities last September issued a circular that defined who is allowed to use swaps, and under what conditions they can trade. Local governments in France, for example, cannot speculate in derivatives, but can use them to However, those changes

have occurred under conditions still in flux. Uneasiness about the risks derivatives pose to the world banking system prompted the US Congress to reserve final word on derivatives regulation, and some legislators view the swaps exemption from commodity law as simply an interim act on the way to more structured swaps regulation.

In another category of legal risk, derivatives dealers have

become increasingly more circumspect about who they take as a swaps counterparty, not just from a credit standpoint, but from the view of legal eliribility.

Governments, particularly municipalities, can be attracted to derivatives deals, but their qualification for a swaps marriage is not always

The costs of consorting with an ineligible counterparty were driven home in the UK in 1991, when the House of Lords ruled that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, an active sterling interest rate swaps trader, did not have the power to enter into derivative contracts.

The decision voided five years worth of contracts, and forced the local authority and the involved financial hastitutions to take losses. The deci-sion also voided similar deals between more than 180 UK councils and 75 of the world's largest banks, stirring up legal appeals that are still in the

Now, rather than assume a counterparty is eligible under existing statutes, banks and other dealers are demanding a definitive body of law. In the US, lobbyists have

persuaded about 25 states to enact laws defining who can use derivatives. Lawyers say the process has been slower in other countries, particularly

Despite the huge amounts of money sloshing through the over-the-counter markets, industry advocates say there have been remarkably few defaults. A recent ISDA survey put cumulative losses at a mere \$358m in the past 10 years, and half of those were attributed to the Hammersmith

"There has been a 5 to 10 per

The past cannot necessarily predict the future, however, and credit risk is the predominant concern of every derivatives dealer and bank regula-

Most swaps dealers use standard contracts to define their transactions, and to reduce credit risks, many engage in bilateral netting agreements.

If the contract is terminated because of bankruptcy or liquidation, the netting agreements allow payables and receivables to cancel each other out, limiting the credit risk of the solvent counterparty to net exposures. Enforcing netting is rife with potholes, however, and

only slowly are bankruptcy judges and others recognising them as valid. Of all the industrialised countries, lawyers say France is the most questionable jurisdiction for enforcing netting.

A 1989 ruling in the US

based counterparties, and the practice is generally recognised in the UK.

allows netting between US-

risk in the global marketplace requires informed decision making



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over-the-counter derivatives. "If base metals prices bottom out and we see a turnaround, the growth in that market could be huge as most consumers are currently not hedged," said Mr Per Sekse, vice-president for commodity derivatives at Chemical Bank in London.

Crédit Lyonnais, the French investment bank, is so confident of finding new business in the commodity derivatives sector that it set up a new arm in September, Crédit Lyonnais Rouse Derivatives, to extend its involvement into structured finance deals.

However, commodity prices have been depressed for several years and, overall, have declined again this year. Goldman Sachs's commodity index, which tracks the prices of a range of commodities from metals to energy and agricultural products, showed a 4.4 per cent decline in the year to the beginning of October.

Goldman is forecasting a modest upturn in prices over the next six months, fuelled by supply-demand imbalances as

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In a low price environment, commodity derivatives can allow a company to lock in a price - either for its raw material or for its sales - and at least meet its budget objectives when cashflow is stretched.

By using OTC products, companies can also hedge to posttion themselves strategically in the market for a number of

These derivatives are often also traded on futures exchanges, but banks can cut individual deals in the OTC markets that extend years beyond the timescale offered by the traditional exchanges.

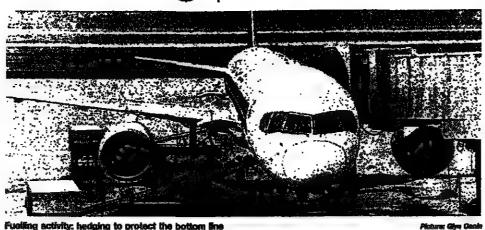
The most sophisticated area of hedging in the OTC market is in the energy sector where the exchanges do not always provide products that cover parts of the refined oil barrel. For instance; although there is a thriving futures market for crude oil in London and New York and gas oil in New York, there is no exchange-traded futures contract for jet fuel

Mr Sekse describes how leading oil company recently bought an option on the spread between jet fuel and gas oil This covers the company's risk of bedging its jet fuel sales to airlines by using gas oil futures. The prices of jet fuel and gas oil are different, so the company runs a certain

aged investment in new capac-

COMMODITY PRODUCTS

Cutting raw material risks



Sekse says. "They say the rea-

prices carry commodity price

risk and they always believe

vince some conservative com-

pany managers that "not hedg-

amount of risk of those prices diverging: that risk can be limited by buying a tailor-made option on the spread between the prices of the two fuels.

Mr Chris Mason, managing director at Crédit Lyonnais Rouse Derivatives, says airlines have increasingly been using swaptions in jet fuel as a way of reducing their fuel costs. Some 18 to 20 per cent of an airline's running costs are accounted for by the fuel bill and using fixed and floating

rate price swaps, CLRD can reduce that bill by 1 per cent. among management," Mr son they are in the commodity business is so that their share Energy companies and airlines are more sophisticated users of these types of hedging deals - more so than similar the price is going to go up again." His challenge is to concompanies in other sectors. Many banks and brokers are trying to move into a position where they can offer these products to carmakers, for example, food companies and

ing is as risky as hedging".

Mr Mason adds that for some mine operators, hedging could "You are battling with an be the deciding factor on inherently bullish attitude whether or not they get bank

EQUITY PRODUCTS

Hedge against stock swings

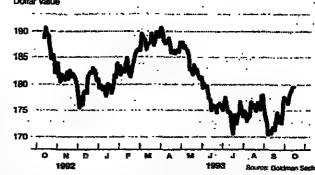
costs. CLRD offers a rolling hedge for, say a copper mine to lock in the price of its output for five years making the

CLRD will also finance the cost of holding metal stocks for an aluminium company. The company can sell its entire stock to the broker and then buy it back when it needs it buying at a spot price which is cheaper than the forward price. It helps the company to get the cost of carrying stock off its balance sheet and the broker locks in a profit by selling the metal forward which it shares with the metal pro-

Hedging is less familiar in the agricultural and soft commodifies sector, not least because the prices of many products are government-controlled. Some consumers are using the OTC markets to hedge purchases of frozen orange Juice, but Mr Mason believes the food sector could offer enormous potential for these hedging arrangements

because it is largely untapped. There is no regular deal flow for banks and brokers from

Goldman Sachs commodity index Dollar value



this sector of the market, but much marketing effort is being directed at this type of busi-

"It can take a lot of patience to convince producers of the need to hedge soft commodities - often as long as six to nine months before they start looking at a deal," said Mr Sekse. The timing is also crucial since the market could, in the meantime, have moved in the wrong direction and the producer could be put off

In the agricultural sector, a number of banks and brokers are working on a hedge for the green pound - the theoretical currency linked to the Ecu in which EC farmers are paid subsidies. This is almost impossible to achieve, but is in demand from food manufactur-

The food companies are less interested in hedging since they tend to have higher margins than companies in the energy sector and can more of raw materials. But a number are beginning to look at the possibility of locking in some

The commodities sector offers wide potential for innovative deal-making and growth in future is expected to come at least initially - from the energy business. Other sectors present a hard sell to the banks involved in the business and a challenge to convince conservative companies to dip a toe in the complex waters of

Deborah Hargreaves

IF YOU peek into the portfolio of an equity fund manager nowadays, the chances are that you might not find any shares. instead, there could be a whole load of bonds in the portfolio.

Before you sue the fund manager for misrepresentation, there is a good reason for what appears to be a contradictory state of affairs.

The fund manager will be using the income from the bonds to buy equity derivative products which should enable his fund to achieve higher returns than other similar funds in the market place.

Equity derivatives have become an integral part of a fund manager's life as the fund management industry becomes increasingly competitive. "Fund managers are doing everything possible to get the best performance," says the head of equity derivatives at a leading Japanese bank in Lon-

don. In addition, the use of equity derivatives is now spreading to all areas of finance as a higher priority is given to managing risk as effectively as possible.

can be divided into three main categories: insurance companies and investment fund companies which want to launch new products to sell to their retail clients; pension funds which want to have an exposure to a certain equity market without having to go out and buy shares in that market; corporate treasurers who want tools to manage or hedge different exposures on their balmice sheets.

"Resentially, we use equity derivative products to solve any problems which our client might have," says one deriva-

tives trader. Some traders say that the drawback of these individual structured deals is that they

are not liquid and are difficult

Users of equity derivatives

Most equity derivative products, which are traded over the counter (OTC) or on futures and options exchanges, can be tailored to each client's specific

However, others say that these deals are essentially made up of a series of building blocks which can be unwound at any

As a result of the customised nature of the market, most of the innovations in equity derivatives products are born in the over-the-counter market which can cater for individual needs. However, the exchanges are quick to catch on to any

Although products traded on the exchanges tend to be more standardised than those in the OTC market, they are attractive to investors who are not allowed to buy products which are not listed.

One important advantage of buying a listed product is that

clearing house which helps to reduce a market participant's credit exposure.

By contrast, participants in the OTC market may well trade directly with a counterparty which has an inferior credit rating. However, an increasing num-ber of entities with triple-A rat-

ings are starting to provide derivative products in the OTC markets which should help to reduce this credit risk concern. There has been an enormous growth in volume in equity derivatives products and investors can now have an exposure to all the leading stock mar-

kets in the world without hav-

ing to actually buy shares in those markets. The next target will be

emerging stock markets in Latin America and Asia as soon as they are deemed to have sufficient liquidity to support a derivatives market. Mexico, Hong Kong and Singa-

take this step. The types of products on offer are also becoming increasingly exotic and investors can now hedge themselves against virtually every move-

pore are likely to be the first to

ment in a stock market. "There are few limits left to what we can offer investors as long as they pay to take the risk and the reward," says a derivatives trader at a UK securities house.

Retail investors are also creeping into what is still a largely institutional domain since equity derivatives are increase in OTC products

being used to structure OTC products which guarantee a specific return.

These "guaranteed return" products are heavily marketed to retail investors who have seen their income from cash deposits dwindle over the past year as a result of the substantial drop in interest rates.

These kinds of products, which rely heavily on derivatives for their ability to outperform the underlying equity market, are widespread in the United States but are relatively new in Europe.

In the UK, the wider use of derivatives has been held up by legislative and fiscal difficulties. However, now that these leaves have been clarified there has been a tremendous

which are sold to retail inves-

Liffe, London's financial futures and options exchange, is relying on retail investors as part of its ambitious plan to stimulate new interest in equity options. In the US and in the Nether-

lands, it is the retail investor, and not the institutional client, who is responsible for about 70 per cent of trading volume in

In the UK, the situation is the reverse, with private investors estimated to contribute less than 20 per cent of total equity and index option vol-

Liffe has therefore taken steps to make equity options more accessible to the public. Prices of individual equity options are now available on the BBC's teletext facility. Cee-

Retail investors were also given priority when Liffe conducted a review of individual equity options. The exchange dropped four existing options

and introduced eight new ones leaving 70 equity options which better reflect the composition of retail and institu-tional portfolio holdings.

Liffe does not expect investors, large and small, to change their habits overnight, but aims to double trading volume of equity options within two years. Currently, just over 1m

Trading in equity options reached a high of 3.1m contracts in the second quarter of 1987, just before the global stock market crash which

occurred that October. While a volume-based target is probably the most widely perceived measure of success Liffe believes that other goals are equally important.

These range from a substantial increase in the use of equity options by institutional and private clients, to increased liquidity in individual equity options.

Antonia Sharpe



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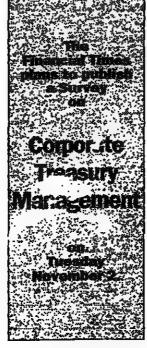
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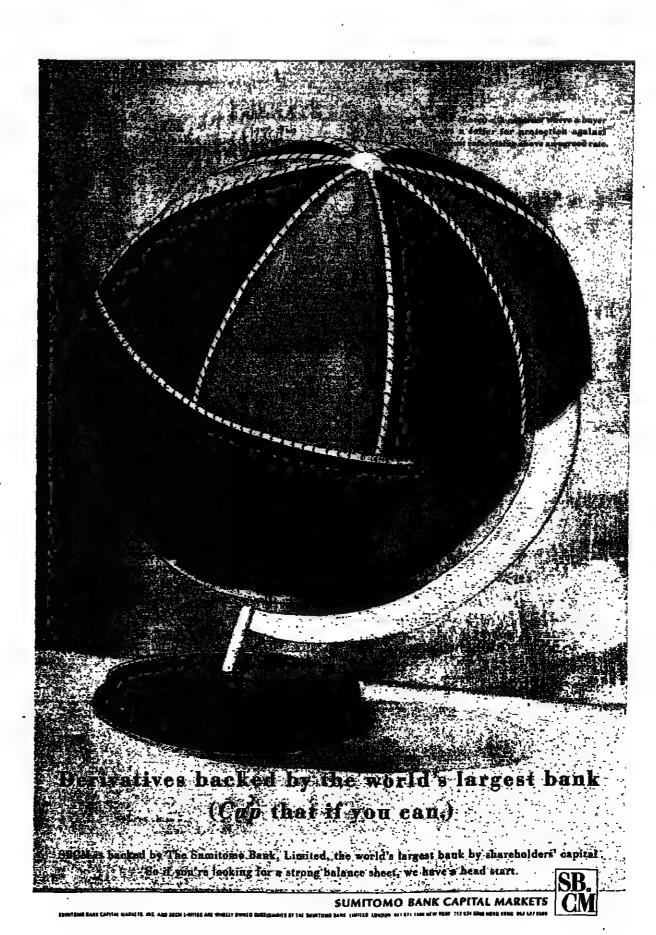
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Tracy Corrigan examines the growth of futures exchanges

Quirky offshoots gain respect

TWENTY years ago, futures exchanges were viewed as quirky offshoots of larger markets. Although still treated with suspicion in some quarters, futures exchanges have now positioned themselves at the heart of the world's financial markets.

According to a recent report by the Group of Thirty, the Washington-based think-tank, the notional amount of futures traded annually is now estimated at \$140,000bn.

The growth of futures markets has been fuelled by the increased sophistication and internationalisation of financial markets, including the proliferation of complex over-thecounter products which are then hedged using exchange-traded products. In fact, the rapid development of financial markets in the past 20 years could arguably not have been realised without the growth of futures and options exchanges.

As barriers between markets have fallen, and international investors have turned their attention to new markets, the establishment of futures contracts has been an important factor in ensuring liquidity and hedging opportunities. The new techniques developed in the derivatives markets have had an impact on investment management, trading, technology, and risk management. In spite of this success record, the exchanges themselves appear less than confident.

In the US, the futures bustness is showing all the signs of a mature market – margins are shrinking, competition is intense, and market share is being lost to younger European exchanges. But in Europe, too, in spite of annual volume growth of 40 per cent for many exchanges, exchanges are aware of new pressures. Mr Jörg Franke, chairman of the Deutsche Terminbörse in Frankfurt, believes that with more than 20 futures and commodities exchanges, Europe has more exchanges than it

Although new products are still being launched, the flow is easing, as the pool of potential new products dries up. Without new contracts such as Italian bond futures, it will be more difficult for European exchanges to build volume. For all exchanges, the development in the past few years of an increasingly active over-thecounter market in products such as swaps and options. which can be used for some purposes instead of exchangetraded products, is a cause for

Mr Lynton Jones, chief executive of OM London, believes the OTC market will continue to grow "but some of their new products will be adapted for exchanges". The most successful such attempt so far is the Chicago Board Options Exchange's FLEX options, which have exceeded \$10bn in underlying notional value in the first seven months of trading. FLEX Options allow investors to use customised derivatives based on stock indices to select various terms such as strike price and maturity.

Exchanges have also been trying to prepare themselves for a potentially more difficult environment by creating crosstrading agreements, linkages and even partnerships. One example is a grouping of smaller European exchanges, known as First European Exchanges (Fex). The only linkage currently in place is between OM London, the Swedish-owned electronic exchange, and the European Options Exchange in Amsterdam. Under that agreement, EOE members have OM screens on their desks in Amsterdam. However, OM members are linked to the EOE only by telephone. Not surprisingly, the flow of business from EOE members to OM has

been the more significant. Fex's other plans have already faltered. In July, Switzerland's Soffex was forced to pull back from its linkage plans under pressure from Swiss banks which want to get their own electronic stock trading system in place first.

Still in the early stages is a linkage of France's Matif and Germany's Deutsche Terminbörse, using DTB screens. As these exchanges command some of the most actively traded contracts in Europe. this alliance could become a

The development of these linkages has fuelled discussion

Volume on international futures and options exchanges

	Jan-Dec 1991	Jan-Dec 1992
Chicago Board of Trade	139,437,140	150,030,460
Chicago Mercantile Exchange	108,128,604	134,238,555
LINE UK	38,583,877	71,977,025
Minilli, France	36,978,966	55,474 ,2 38
New York Mercantile Exchange	40,786,714	47,212,417
BM&F, Brazil	18,768,564	35,072,146
DTB, Germany	15,259,730	34,842,778
London Matal Exchange	16,937,909	24,736,920
Osaka Securities Exchange	53,478,949	21,184,310
Sydney Futures Exchange	12,496,018	17,557,665
Stockholm Options Exchange	13,442,850	17,147,096
Tokyo Inti Financial Futures Exchange	15,149,104	15,540,487
Tokyo Stock Exchange	16,601,899	14,538,717
Tokyo Comm Exchange Industry	14,949, 199	18,565,379
Commodity Exchange, Inc	15,121,856	12,673,179
Tokyo Grain Exchange	9,699,883	12,416,671
Simex, Singapore	6,068,044	12,180,174
Intl Petroleum Exchange, UK	8,412,689	10,674,803
Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange	9,494,734	9,275,708
Sofies, Switzerland	6,971,740	9,258,859
Osaka Grain Exchange	4,123,743	5,441,392
European Options Exch, Amaterdam	3,469,945	3,856,247

counter after-hours market,

as Matif products moved on to

Globex, Globex has also been

dogged by squabbles between

the two exchanges, and failure

to reach agreement with other

potential members of the sys tem, particularly Liffe.

Nevertheless, the description

of the system at its launch by

Mr Leo Melamed, then head of

Globex, as "the dawn of a new

era", could still prove true. The

Chicago exchanges point out that the system cannot be

tudged to have failed until it

has screens all over the world

as envisaged in their original

vision of a global trading vil-

lage. "How do you sell hot dogs

in Japan when you don't even

have a hot dog stand there?"

asks Mr Jack Sandner, head of

the CME. Glober has only

recently received regulatory

approval to install screens in

Asia, which is potentially the

key time-zone for the after-

hours market, and is starting a

marketing thrust in the region.

the system will also depend on

attracting other exchanges to

list their products. The recent

reopening of talks between Liffe and Glober is clearly a

hopeful sign, but the battle for

a critical mass of volume on

the system has yet to be won.

Nevertheless, the success of

which closed at the same time

of technological developments. Such linkages only really function efficiently for products traded on a screen. Most large exchanges still trade using the traditional open-outcry method, which involves grouping traders in a large pit. Proponents of open-outcry trading claim that screen systems can-

not cope with heavy volume. The success of the DTB has shown that screen trading does not necessarily mean illiquid trading. Nevertheless, most traders familiar with both methods prefer trading using the open-outcry method. Some, though, say that it is only a matter of time before the technology of screen-trading is sufficiently advanced to be able to simulate pit-trading.

Despite its shaky start, the most important development in exchange trading so far this decade was the launch last year of Globex, the international after-hours screen trading system jointly developed by Reuters and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade. Volume on the system jumped when France's Matif, the only exchange to join the system so far, added its products earlier this year; but much of the volume was a direct shift of busi-

style clearing house for over-the-counter derivatives gained prominence early this year, in part because the US government had just exempted swaps from US commodity regulations, increasing the uneasiness politicians and bank regulators have about the \$7,000bn Advocates argued that a

HE IDEA of a futures-

multilateral swaps clearing house would broaden access to the burgeoning market, reduce credit risks, and produce reams of data for regulatory scrutiny. The world's biggest futures exchanges, at least one law firm, and several dealers rushed to research prototypes. However, the handful of

AAA-rated banks and dealers who conduct 80 per cent of the world's swaps trade carefully sidestepped the clearing house debate, knowing that without their participation, a swaps clearing house would not suc-

They value the competitive edge their credit ratings deliver, and are satisfied with their own credit controls.

Now that the excitement has died down, even the most selfinterested proponents recognise that the swaps trade, a highly customised retail market, will not fit into a wholesale clearing mould. Consensus is building that what is needed instead is a series of thirdparty agents providing services usually performed by a clearing house.

Dealers would continue bilateral netting, using standard ments like those provided by ISDA, the International Swans and Derivatives Association, but trade matching confirmations, collateral handling, and depository duties would be outsourced to

"There are credible substitutes provided by reputable institutions for almost every individual function of a swaps clearing house," Mr John Davidson, senior vice-president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's clearing operations, told a banking group recently. "As their functionality improves, the incremental need for a clearing house diminishes.

The swaps industry perhaps has learned from the long, controversial, and expensive attempts to develop clearing houses for over-the-counter foreign exchange transactions. Several ventures, such as New York-based FxNet, has bilater**CLEARING**

Swaps trade dodges issue

Now that the debate for a multilateral swaps clearing house has died down, even the most self-interested proponents recognise that the swaps trade, a highly customised retail market, will not fit into a wholesale clearing mould.

Laurie Morse examines the options

ally netted spot trades for years. However, multilateral clearing remains elusive, and most efforts have avoided about this exposure. derivatives altogether.

Two competing groups, one on each side of the Atlantic. plan to offer multilateral foreign exchange contract netting and global settlement services next year, and intend to include forward contracts as well as spot deals.

Multinet, backed primarily by First Chicago and Chase Manhattan, will use the serrices of the Options Clearing

Multinet lost the backing of several top-rated banks when they realised the venture, by enhancing credit quality, could strengthen their weaker rivals. "We knew from the start this was a project subject to fractious relationships," says Mr Garrett Glass, a senior vice-president at First National Bank of Chicago, and the chief architect of the six-year-long

Echo, or the Exchange Clearing house, has much the same object as Multinet. Based in London it has a dozen bank shareholders, and is being directed primarily by Barclays. Its prolonged development has been due to difficulties in guiding its charter through jealous waters, and to the fact that starting any kind of clearing operation from scratch is extremely expensive.

In the swaps market, the credit worries extend far beyond initial settlement risk. with credit exposures extending over the term of the contract. Banks, even more than regulators, are concerned

In addition to imposing strict credit quality standards and credit limits on customers and counterparties, the swaps industry has begun to collect collateral on all but the most standard transactions, and to mark positions to market to assess risk ore accurately .

Both practices are the basis of the high credit quality awarded to exchange affiliated clearing houses.

Although the CME has considered developing a swaps clearing house, Mr Davidson says that fundamentally, the existing system of counterparty credit limits works. Banks and other financial intermediarles are good at applying them, supervisors are good at reviewing them, and senior management understands them. Rapidly untethering the swaps market from its current, largely self-imposed limitations, may not have entirely desirable systemic risk implications," he says.

If the primary swaps dealers do begin to move toward an organised clearing house, they will be driven by regulatory capital requirements. It is widely assumed that a fully collateralised swaps clearing house would be exempted from requirements to beef up capital to back up trades.

However, if this spring's Basle Committee proposal to recognise bilateral close-out netting is approved, capital



reserve requirements for swap-dealing banks could be trimmed by more than half, according to Mr Ottho Heidring, a vice-president at Chase Manhattan Bank. That, in turn, would widen the use of standard netting agreements, and hasten the evolution of agents to service settlement and collateral processing

One such service is Bankers Trust's C-Trac+, which offers third-party processing for all types of collateralised OTC

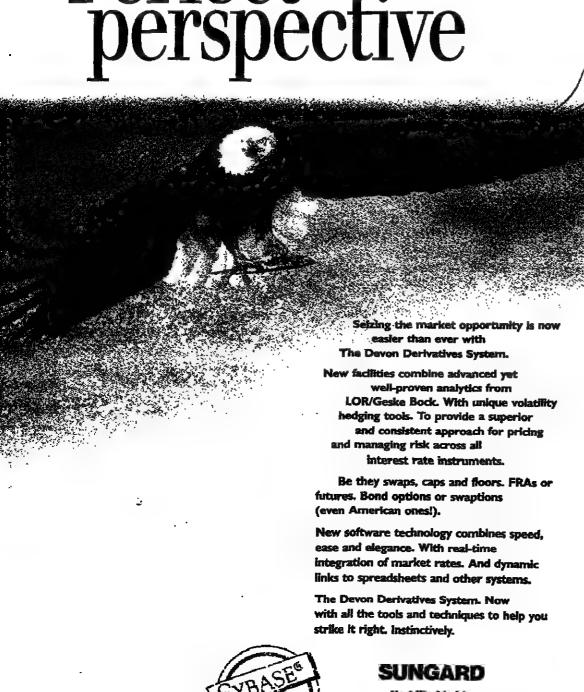
Capitalising on the bank's own derivatives processing capabilities, the product tracks exposures, makes margin calls, and handles the pricing and custody of the assets pledged as collateral.

Ms Eileen Bedell, managing director for Bankers, says the product is aimed at derivative dealers that may not have fully developed back office procedures, and find using the sys tem less expensive than developing in-house capabilities. She thinks that as the derivatives business becomes more competitive, consolidating back-office functions will become more popular.

"People will begin to realise that a swaps trading model is proprietary, but margin track-ing is not," she says.

However, since most leading dealers have already investe in their own processing tunctions, she says the new services can only compete by reducing costs and increasing profitability.

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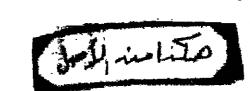
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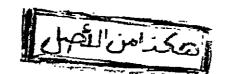
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A STRONG performance by futures funds so far this year **FUTURES FUNDS** could help get the nascent European market off the ground. According to industry estimates, around \$20bn is under management in futures funds in the US, but the size of

Europe waits for floodgates to open

the market is much smaller in develop. "We are not seeing Europe - probably between the floodgates open. In the \$2.3bn. The European market also remains fragmented. short term, institutions are finding it easier to tackle the Most funds are registered in hedge fund managers," Ms offshore financial centres, and Meaden said. However, this pitched at high net-worth indiyear's strong performance may viduals or small institutions in provide the European futures specific regions. Variations and fund business with some fresh inconsistencies in the regulatory framework make it more In the first eight months of convenient for fund managers

this year, the average total return achieved by futures fund managers was 17.45 per cent, according to the TASS index of CTAs (commodity trading adviser - the industry term for the manager who decides the investment strategy of a particular fund). The reason for this strong performance is that "we have had trending markets", according to Mr Peter Swete, chairman of Sabre Fund Management, a futures fund specialist which is now partly owned by Hender-

Ms Nicola Meaden, managing director of TASS Management, Unlike most other investwhich tracks futures funds, says that there has been an increase in the number of whether markets are up or funds launched in Europe this down, and more on the patyear, but mainstream instituterns of those movements. tional interest has been slow to Although the strategies of

Floor show: trading on London International Financial Futures Exchange

futures fund managers vary considerably, what they have in common, apart from their use of derivatives, is that they are based on data analysis and

computer power.
Mr Swete, whose funds have risen 30 per cent over the past ments, the performance of 12 months, says that their futures funds depends less on strong performance has strong performance has attracted new money, doubling the size of funds under management for the same period. "I think it has been a better

year generally in Europe, mainly because there has been better performance after two or Mark Fox-Andrews at Mees-Plurson Derivatives.

The increase in investor interest comes mainly from continental Europe, not the UK, according to many industry specialists. One reason is that "continental European banks are moving into the futures fund business," Mr Fox

Andrews says A number of French banks. such as Indosuez, have been active in the market for some time, but are now being joined by more Swiss, German and Dutch banks. US banks are

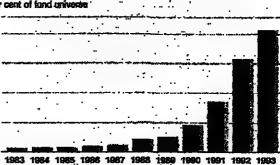
also becoming more active, though they tend to take a slightly different approach. A number of them had lost traders from their proprietary trading desks, who had decided to apply their skills by setting up

opportunity, several banks decided to take advantage of this home-grown talent by setting up futures fund departments staffed by former proprietary traders.
"Every major bank is now

looking at this area," according to one futures fund manager but many still have bad memories of being scalped by futures brokers in the 1970s. This has also haunted the retail side of the industry in the UK which has not taken off in spite of the authorisation of futures funds in the form of unit trusts.

Only a handful of futures and options funds (Fofs) and guaranteed futures and options funds (GFofs) have been launched, partly because futures fund managers are not able to pay themselves the high fees to which they are

accustomed.
"If you really want the top
people you must pay them the top fees," said one fund manager. Standard performance fees on offshore futures funda are 15-20 per cent. However. management fees have fallen in recent years from around 4 Growth of European sponsored futures funds



per cent to 1-2 per cent. There are plans to relax the rules on fees for UK-listed futures funds, but so far retail investors have not appeared hugely enthusiastic. However, one regulatory development which should help the UK futures fund business - or at least prevent practitioners from moving offshore - is the proposal by the Securities and Futures Authority to recognise fund managers in the sector as a separate category, defined as DFMs (derivative fund manag ers). Because they do not hold any funds directly, they are to

requirements. However, this is set to change when the EC Investment Services Directive come into force in 1996. At present, it

be allowed lower capital

is hard to predict the shape that the futures fund industry will take over the next fev

It is still highly entrepreneurial, one of very few areas of financial services where it is possible to start from scratch establish a track record, and grow very rapidly.

Recent interest from banks suggests that the industry may become more institutional in character. In addition, the growing use of derivatives and trading techniques has blurred the lines between different types of investment. In particuar, it is increasingly hard to draw a line between futures funds and hedge funds.

Tracy Corrigan

IF ANYONE needed reminding that players in the derivatives markets need to do more work on integrating their front and back office technologies, this summer's Group of Thirty report should have done the

to register funds offshore, although most European

futures fund managers are

In the US, the strong regula-

tory environment and strict

performance reporting stan-dards have helped futures

funds to gain a respectability

which they have yet to acquire

in Europe. For example, a number of US state pension

funds now publicly invest a

portion of their portfolios in

based in London.

futures funds.

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The G30 study looked into derivatives technology and systems, and singled out integration as the most important issue facing the commercial and investment banks which run big derivatives books and the large corporations that use the products to manage the risks of their day-to-day busi-

As the group's systems, operations and controls subcommittee said: "Systems that integrate the various tasks to be performed for derivatives are complex. Because of the rapid development of the business, even the most sophisticated dealers and users often rely on a variety of systems which may be difficult to integrate in a satisfactory manner. While this situation is inevitanot ideal and requires careful

monitoring ... Integration matters most to derivatives dealers because without integrated systems, they may not be able to properly measure, monitor and control the various risks they carry on their books. The G30 is right to be concerned, because by no means do all dealing firms in the business boast fully integrated deriva-

tives technology. "Most banks have a patch-work quilt of systems," says Mr Rod Beckstrom, founder of California based technology group C*ATS Software, who says that only a handful of the derivatives players meet the sort of standards outlined in

the G30 report. Mr Patrick Brazel, senior vice-president at UK-based derivatives technology vandor SunGuard Capital Markets (previously Devon Systems), agrees: "I don't think the banks in general have cracked While this situation is inevitable in many organisations, it is office integration."

biggest and most experienced

That the dealing community continues to struggle with integration is primarily due to the frantic pace of product development in most front offices. As one software supplier explains: "New products are introduced to the market when there's a need for a specific structured product, yet the

systems to support those prod-ucts are developed entirely on

an ad-hoc basis."

Consequently, back offices find themselves constantly playing a game of technological catch-up with the front offices which keep coming up with a supply of new products (or old products with new twists) tailor-made to satisfy

their clients' needs. Building integrated systems, however, is not a simple task. Derivatives technology, like derivatives themselves, has evolved in a rendom fashion. Dealers have relied upon a variety of software and hardware, not all of it compatible, to create, price and track deriv-

Without integrated systems, derivatives dealers may not be able to properly measure, monitor and control the risks they carry on their books

TECHNOLOGY

Integration top of the agenda

atives instruments. Some of are developed in-house, and some are bought from software vendors which specialise in selling derivatives manage-ment systems. Many employ a combination of the two.

When it comes to buying in the technology from outside (an option that more and more dealers are taking as the mmber of derivative systems sup-

everything needed in the way of pricing, portfolio analysis and risk management func-

firms purchase what are

known as "turnkey" systems, which offer a complete off-ths-

shelf software package that

aims to provide a dealer with

This is what the established derivatives technology suppliers - companies such as Sun-Guard, C*ATS and Quotient generally offer. Mr Beckstrom says his firm sells software that "allows treasurers to

pliers rapidly grows), many tronically and provide the tools to do risk management analysis and reporting".

Other products, known as "toolkits", are more adaptable to technology which provide the buyer with the flexibility to take their systems wherever they wish in an open environment. They may not be ready to use as fast as the turnkey systems, but they give the buyer more room to tailor the technology to their own needs

Mr Roger Lang, of US systems supplier Infinity Inter-national Financial Technology, says that banks and other derivatives dealers need "leverageable tools and building blocks" to construct their own functions and support their own models. When it comes to define and capture complex integration, "we have to be investing heavily in deriva-

able to allow banks to determine their own fate," he says. A similar theme is sounded by Canadian consulting and software firm Glassco Park, which sells software that can work inside other applications in this case, Microsoft Windows. Mr Robert Park, of Glassco Park, says that in the past many derivatives dealers systems "were built around a database file format appropriate only for accounting, which over the years has been modi-

structures". In contrast, Glassco Park's approach is to build maths libraries to explain the parts found in derivatives securities. and allow companies to construct their systems around those libraries. The firm claims that is an affordable and quick way to build integrated risk management systems, saving the time and money involved in developing them from

fied and remodified to try to

accommodate new financial

While the buy-side has been

tives technology, a small but growing band of the corporations and investment institutions on the sell-side have also been upgrading their systems.

This summer, Atlantic Portfolio Analytics and Management, a \$3.7bn fixed-income fund manager, bought a Cray supercomputer system to compute complex arbitrages, swap options and hedges in a variety of cash and derivatives markets. Although several securi ties firms, such as Prudential Securities and Merrill Lynch use supercomputers, APAM pany to turn to supercomputbecame the first buy-side com-

Also this summer. BP Finance, the banking and treesurv subsidiary of the UK oil group, began installing a realtime, deal-capture, positionkeeping risk management system from Wall Street Systems for its 200 foreign exchange and derivatives traders in the US, UK and Australia.

Patrick Harverson

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REGULATION

Temperature has cooled markedly

islators to the over-the-counter derivatives market was, if not hostile, certainly combative.

· The blunt warning about derivatives sounded in January 1992 by the then president of the Federal Reserve, Mr Gerald Corrigan, still rang loudly in bankers' ears, and a small army of regulators from the US and overseas (including the New York Federal Reserve and the Bank of England) were studying the lightly regulated OTC business

At the same time, lawmakers in the US were getting in on the act. Badly burned by the multibillion dollar collapse of the US savings and loan industry and by the meltdown in the junk bond market in the late 1980s, and by the near-collapse of some of the country's biggest banks at the start of the 1990s, Congress did not want to be caught asleep on its finan-

Eager to be fully informed of the growth of the over-thecounter derivatives business and its potential impact upon public policy, various key finance and banking committees originated their own inquiries, and several leading members of Congress hinted at the possibility of legislation to control, if not curb, the growth

of derivatives. At that time, the creators and users of derivatives were being put on the defensive. Essentially, regulators and US legislators were asking them to prove that the myriad of risks that banks and corporations take on when using derivatives did not threaten the health of an increasingly inter-connected global financial system.

Over the past 18 months, the banks and securities houses which create and sell derivatives, with the beln of the corporations and institutions which use them, have helped answer some of the many questions surrounding the business. The result: the temperature of the regulatory climate surrounding the derivatives business, so hot 18 months ago, has cooled.

Mr Joe Bauman, head of business development for global derivatives at Citibank

EIGHTEEN months ago, the for the industry in his capacity approach of regulators and legtional Swaps and Derivatives Association (Isda), says regulators and legislators are definitely taking a more "constructive and understanding" approach to the business today. "They have shown a willingness to take a harder look, to get behind the general-

Mr Bauman and other bankers point out that regulators were taking such an interest in derivatives primarily because they did not understand the complexities and intricacies of business. Having failed to track the early development of derivatives, regulators were behind from the start, and struggled to keep up with the hectic pace of innovation.

This is a point that the regulators have openly conceded. Last year the then US Treasury secretary Mr Nicholas Brady referred to the "wide knowledge gap between regulators and regulated", echoing earlier comments from a senior Bank of England figure who said the gap was "too great for normal communication". Since then, the knowledge-

gap has narrowed. Not only have the regulators started, and in many cases completed, their investigations of derivatives, but banks have gone out of their way to educate regulators about the business. When it comes to the question of whether new risks to banks and the financial system are posed by the growth of derivatives, Isda's message has always been that "the risks are there already, and what needs to be understood is the ways those risks are managed," says Mr Bauman. With the help of a series of derivatives seminars hosted by banks for government officials, that message is now getting across.
In their mission to educate

helped by some of the recent studies on derivatives published around the world. None has been more helpful than this July's report from the Group of Thirty (G30). Although many of its authors were prominent members of the international banking community, and therefore deemed in New York, and spokesman unlikely to criticise a business

regulators, bankers have been





Alexandre Lamfalussy; banks



Gerald Corrigan: set the ball rolling in Jenuary 1992 Hel

that was generating billions of dollars of profits for the industry, the G30's pronouncements were still eagerly awaited.

In the event, the study generally concurred with earlier reports by the Bank of England and the BIS and gave the derivatives business a clean bill of health, recommending only a series of management and operational reforms banks should undertake to reduce risks. Bankers said they hoped the study and its recommendations would become a blueprint for regulators.

The G30, however, steered clear of tackling the one issue that worries regulators most the possibility that something may go wrong in the over-thecounter derivatives market that prompts a worldwide banking and financial crisis.

That this threat still troubles regulators was evident in June when Mr Alexandre Lamfalussy, general manager of the BIS, called for the drawing up of common international standards on banks' disclosures of

books. And it was also evident last month, when the International Monetary Fund published its own study about derivatives and warned that growth in derivatives trading may have created unknown risks for banks.

Both Mr Lamfalussy and the

IMF made the same point. The BIS chief said that banks' participation in the derivatives markets had "reduced the transparency of their balance sheets", making it harder for regulators to predict "disturbances" that might pose "sys-temic problems" in global finance. The IMF said: "Particlpation in derivatives markets can cause firms to become connected through complicated transactions in ways that are not easily understood." This, the report concluded, made it "extremely difficult" for regulators to assess the risk of

default in the system. Regulatory scrutiny of the derivatives business is by no means over. Three Washington-based bodies, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the

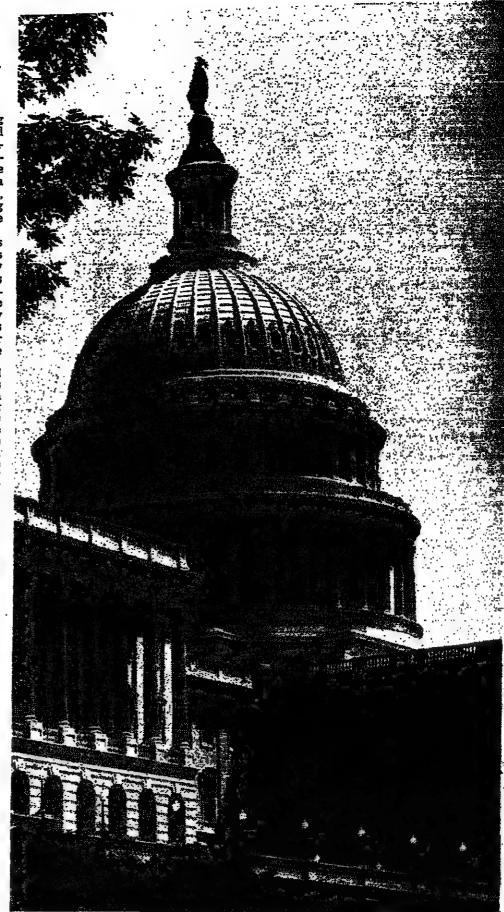
Commission, and the General Accounting Office, are all conducting studies into derivatives. And in September, the Comptroller of the Currency, a key US bank regulator, announced it was establishing a task force to monitor the market's evolution.

The GAO study, which was expected to be released this summer but which probably will not be out until late this year or early 1993, is particularly important because the GAO is the investigative body of Congress, and Congress is where some of the tougher questions about derivatives are being asked.

For now, Congressional interest in derivatives remains at an educational level, with banks and end-users helping the legislators learn more about the business. As Joe Bauman of the Isda says: "We are finding that there is still a fair amount of education to be done, because as a group they have not been singularly looking at financial markets, and certainly not the derivatives market.

Bankers feel this educational process is paying off. Mr Doug Kidd, who is responsible for government relations at Bankers Trust, says: "Members of Congress originally viewed derivatives as nothing more than new positioning tools for financial institutions to make directional bets on markets. Now that education generally is better, and end-users have participated in seminars and talked about how they use derivatives, there's a new appreciation among members what derivatives are used

Although they may now be better informed, legislators are still keen to learn more about derivatives, and a series of committee hearings on the business will be held this winter, including several by Mr Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the senior Congressional bankthorn in the side of US banks. With him, other legislators and many regulators still on the derivatives trail, banks cannot



Patrick Harverson Getting in on the act: US lewmakers have woken up to the pitfalls of derivatives

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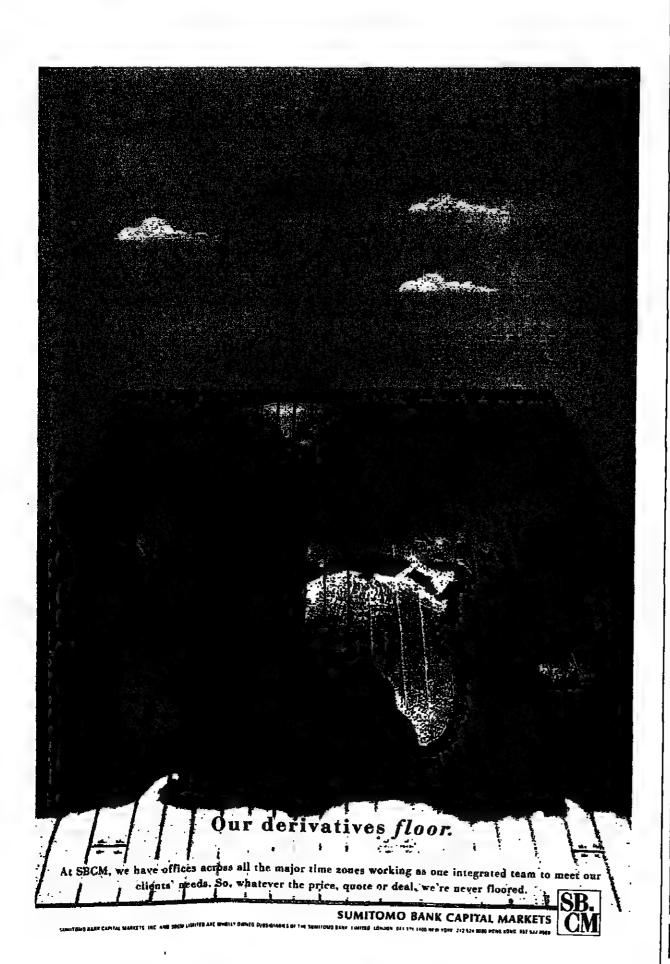
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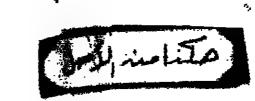
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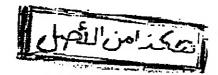
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JAPAN

THE CLOSED nature of ing the possibilities, and there Tokyo's financial markets was highlighted by the controversial launch of Japanese govthen," he says. ernment bond futures on the

the cheaper contract by Simex. from Simex notifying us of the futures are already traded in London and Chicago, but this will be the first launch outside of Tokyo in the same time

ucts on other exchanges. Mr Ang contends that the

was no indication of concern

been angered by the launch of We only got a fax in August launch," says the TSE. JGB

Simex says the commis levels are around half of those in Tokyo. TSE officials have tried to convince Simex to cancel the plan, without success. "The launch will erode liquidity in Tokyo, hence distorting prices and the efficiency of the market," says a TSE spokes-man. Officials at Liffe, visiting Tokyo recently, have also denounced Simex as a "free rider" copying successful prod-

move by Simex will not frag-

However, TSE officials have

JGB futures stir bad memories

Tokyo's JGB futures market is already huge with widespread participation. Volume on the Tokyo JGB futures is about six times that of Singapore. Tokyo financial authorities have warned Japanese brokers and traders against market-

ing, or using the Simex futures. However, this will not stop overseas investors, including overseas affiliates of Japanese brokers, from trading. Some traders point out that the move by Simex reflects growing demand from non-TSE members who want to trade JGB futures without paying exorbitant TSE mem-

One trader at a leading Japanese house, however, points However, a trader at a UK

transferable.

contract, and positions are not

sized order." be adds.

holds great potential. "From brokerage based in Tokyo says he will not use the Simex mar-ket until its liquidity and pricthe users point of view, compe-tition between exchanges isn't a bad thing. The TSE shouldn't ing efficiency has improved. The real test is going to come involve market users in its when the Tokyo futures mar-

rows," he says.

It is not the first time TSE officials have failed to perket is locked due to a large suade Simex to change its stance on products linked to The small turnover is expected to keep large-lot players the Japanese market. The TSE away, and concerns over the tried to convince Simex to open outery system exists. Unlike the JGB futures traded nent trading restrictions on its Nikkei 225 futures con-tracts, following the crash in in London, the contracts are not compatible, with the size of each contract in Singapore the Tokyo stock market. Tokyo financial authorities half the Y100m of the Tokyo

blamed futures and options contracts for volatility on the underlying stock market, and implemented a spate of tradout that trading on Simex ing restrictions over the past

that Simex introduce stricter rules to curb trading, but

Simex failed to comply.

The result of tighter restrictions and higher trading costs on the Osaka stock exchange, where the Nikkei futures are listed, resulted in a shift of trading to Singapore. Japanese officials were angered by the plunge in derivatives trading on the Osaka exchange last year, while activity jumped on

In July, the TSE drafted a new set of restrictions for the stock index futures market including the introduction of a circuit breaker mechanism to suspend transactions when

Average daily trading volume of Nikkel futures

21,752 21,858 55,239

A separate group of Osaka and Tokyo stock exchange members has been working on new stock index for futures, and a new index was announced by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, which calculates

the Nikkei 225 index, on Octo-

ber 8. The Nikkei 300 is a capitalisation weighted average of 300 stocks, and a new futures contract based on the index is expected to replace Osaka's Nikkei 225 futures, which is a simple price average of 225 stocks, and has been criticised as being easily manipulated. Meanwhile, although Japan's new coalition government is calling for less regulation and freer markets, the ministry of finance is far from easing its grip on new financial products, including new derivative instruments.

Earlier this year, the Committee to Make Tokyo Markets More Transparent and Interna-tional (CTTI), an industry body made up of Japanese and foreign financial institutions, criticised the ministry's decision-making in evaluating new financial products saying it

Emiko Terazono

IN AUGUST this year, the HK\$1.93bn (US\$247m) lifeboat loan, which had saved Hong Kong's collapsed futures market in October 1987, was repaid. The colony's derivatives markets were finally able to turn from a chequered past and focus on an increasingly

Singapore International Mone-

The launch of the JGB

futures by Simex, which also

runs the Nikkei futures mar-

ket, has bought back bad

memories to Tokyo stock

exchange officials, who

blamed the plunge in the stock

market on excessive futures

and options transactions.

Many in the financial markets

point out that such misconcep-

tions stem from the heavy reg-

ulation over derivative prod-

ucts in Japan, which has also

kept the use of futures and

contract after suggestions

from the Managed Futures

Association in the US. Mr Ang

Swee Tian, president of Simex,

said: "Barlier in the year we

indicated that we were study-

Simex launched the JGB

options under-developed.

tary Exchange this month.

dynamic present. Before the 1987 stock market crash, Hong Kong had operated the second most active index futures contract in the world. but the period since then has been one of only gradual recovery. Turnover dwindled sufficlently in 1990 that there were many calls for the closure of

the entire Futures Exchange. For the exchange's new management, the first push was to enforce reforms which would prevent any possible repeat of 1987. The second was to encourage nervous former particinants to return to the futures market. It has suc-

ceeded on both fronts. The recent repayment of this fund has coincided with a growing international investor focus on the Hong Kong stock market, and the result has been a rapid growth in demand

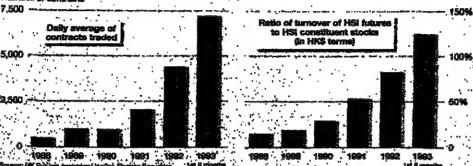
for derivative products. In the past 18 months, most of the large US securities houses have either opened up or upgraded Hong Kong offices, and one of their primary aims has been to build un derivatives business, an area which had always been

peripheral. A number of the US groups

HONG KONG

Focus on a dynamic present

Hang Seng Index futures market



have purchased seats on the Futures Exchange, and along with other leading European and Japanese brokerages, they have helped to promote the

In the first six months of 1993, turnover in Hang Seng Index futures increased by 151 per cent, compared with the first half of 1992. The strong performance in the Hang Seng Index has been reflected in increased trading in the Futures Exchange's latest derivative product, the Hang Seng Index option, which was introduced in March and saw record trading in October.

The derivatives market has become dominated by the leading foreign securities houses. which have the advantages of greater capital resources, overseas expertise and global distribution. They are bringing in a global client base for new

investment products. For example, Morgan Stanley claims to have accounted for between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of daily turnover in the futures market in recent months, while Swiss Bank has taken a substantial share of trading in the options market. The arrival of overseas brokerages has also resulted in a

broadening of the range of available products to include over-the-counter or listed covered warrants and, recently, convertible loan stock.

The US securities houses

were primarily responsible for introducing the benefits of convertible bond/preference share issues to conservatively-managed Hong Kong companies. During 1993, Jardine Strategic Holdings, Dairy Farm, Wharf Holdings, Amoy Properties, Sino Land, Guangdong Investment and Henderson China all used convertible issues as a means of capitalising on the performance of

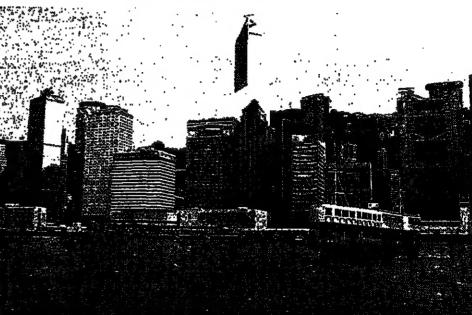
These issues have raised a total of US\$929.5m (around HK\$7.25bn), which is marginally less than the total capital raised in the stock market from the 18 rights Issues announced during the first eight months of the year.

Mr Han Ong, managing director of Warburg Asset Management Hong Kong, said: "This change is inevitable, as the market matures and comes under the international spot-

When activity in the futures market peaked in 1987, index futures contracts were regarded as the ultimate speculative tool for retail investors. Trading had scared to 27,000 contracts a day, with an underlying contract value of more than HK\$4.8hn (US\$615m).

During September this year the average daily turnover was only 9.093 contracts. However. this is around 10 times higher than the level when Futures Exchange chief executive Mr Gary Knight joined in January Mr Knight said: "The futures

market is now doing 150 per cent of the underlying stock



Hong Kong's derivatives market is experiencing a grand rebirth

market turnover on a daily

basis, and that is good by any international standards." He attributes the growth in turnover to the performance of the underlying stock market, the rapid expansion in the number of members of the futures market, and the increase in sophistication of investors in Hong Kong.

"In 1990, a lot of people said the futures market shouldn't exist. It is now accepted as a meaningful part of the finan-cial scene," said Mr Knight.

During 1992, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of mutual fund money coming into the Hong Kong stock market from the US. Those fund managers have demanded more sophisticated hedging tools, particularly futures contracts and over-thecounter derivative products.

The stock exchange is in the final threes of introducing a computerised trading system automatically matching buyers with sellers - which is a precursor to lifting prohibition on

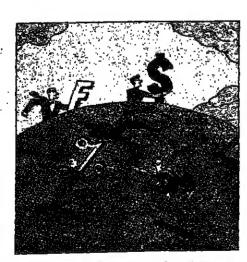
short-selling, and to the launching of traded stock options on the Exchange. These are to be introduced in mid-1994.

Derivatives have long been on the speculative periphery of Hong Kong investment portfolios, but with the introduction of more sophisticated tools and a more international market place, their association with the excesses of 1967 has finally

Simon Davies

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SOCIETE GENERALE EQUITIES & DERIVATIVES

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MEXICO'S growing financial integration with the US is propelling it into the age of deriva-

tives. On the Chicago Board of Trade, trading volume on listed options on Telefonos de Mexico, Mexico's largest stock, runs to more than \$30bn a year, making it one of the most popular options on the exchange. Some 200 to 300 trades in Mexican warrants are executed every day in the overthe-counter market in Luxembourg. The market in tailor-made derivatives on blue-chip Mexican equities, debt instruments or the peso is thriving, and is even larger than the listed warrant market in Luxembourg.

Such instruments have become highly popular with investors wishing to hedge against falls in the stock market, rise in interest rates, or simply leverage their exposure to Mexican assets. They have also proven profitable for the investment hanks that offer them, led by Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, Banker's Trust, and Goldman Sachs.

The derivative business conducted in Mexico, though, has been limited, mainly because of government regulation. Until recently the only types of derivatives that could be offered in Mexico were cobertu-

THE USE of derivatives for risk management purposes may seem pretty old bat to the blue chip companies of the world's more developed countries, but for companies in some of the emerging economies it is a skill still largely in its infancy.

That is not for want of sufficiently volatile conditions. Companies in developing countries are just as exposed as their western rivals - if not more so - to the vicissitudes of modern life. As companies turn away from their domestic markets and grow increasingly international, they often face the problems of fluctuations in exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices.

world which borrows cheaply in dollars to finance the construction of a new factory, for example, might suddenly find itself paying more than it had bargained for if the domestic currency suffers a sharp devaluation. Given the increasing integration of world markets, fluctuations in the developed world are rapidly transmitted to the developing economies.

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S A LITTLE UNDERLYING SECURITY IN CASE THE OPTIONS MARKET GOES SOUR



ras, tesebonos, and ajustabonos. The cobertura is an over-thecounter exchange rate contract, in which the investor pays a premium determined in the market for the right to receive at some specified time in the future the observed peso/dollar devaluation over the period of the cobertura. bono is a treasury-bill that offers dollar rate of return, protecting the investor against the devaluation. The ajustabono offers a nominal rate of return

Added to these external factors, some developing countries (for example Brazil) suffer from very high inflation. Under such circumstances, companies are often forced to consider a much shorter time-frame. focusing on daily or monthly financial management rather than looking much further

"High inflation typically reduces the maturity range of available financial instruments, which limits the ability of firms to deal with currency (or interest rate) exposures beyond a short horizon," says Mr Jack Glen, an economist at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in his recent report on risk management in developing countries*

For example, in Brazil (where the domestic capital markets are very sophisticated, offering a broad range of different instruments for managing a variety of risks) the very high inflation rate and economic uncertainty "prevents the development of medium and long-term risk management instruments", according to Mr Glen.

MEXICO

Propelled into a new financial age

The cobertura has been popniar with Mexicans keen to hedge or speculate against exchange rate fluctuations. with daily volume over \$1bn. (Foreigners have had to pay withholding tax of 15 per cent, so they have shied away from the market. However the withholding tax has just been reduced to 4.9 per cent, and foreigners might now move into the market.)

But the cobertura, like the tesebono, is not a full currency hedge, since investors are only paid in pesos. Were the peso to be made inconvertible, investors would not be able to buy dollars at the official exchange rate. However, with the offshore derivative business growing by leaps and bounds, last year the Mexican government decided to stem the tide, and expand the home-based derivative market. The Mexican Securities and Exchange Commission allowed the stock market to offer listed warrants

The warrants started trading in October, and average volume has been modest, at about \$1m a day.

So far the warrant market has suffered from over-regulation, lack of liquidity, and foreigners have preferred to keep on buying OTC offshore. It can take several months to obtain permission to issue a warrant, a privilege only granted to Mexican brokerages, which limits the overall liquidity of

buy the warrants. Mexican brokerages are also unwilling to trade or comment on warrants issued by their rivals. This has further prevented the market from reaching a critical mass

the market. Mutual funds are

still awaiting permission to

While the government's conservative attitude has been criticised by banks keen to compete with the US in derivatives, it has won support outside broker circles. "There is a virtue in being cautious. It is much worse to go when you ble enough, Mr Suarez expects

plus the inflation rate over life on blue-chip Mexican stocks. are not ready, than to wait too long," says Catherine Mansell, an academic and author of the best-selling The new finance in

> Next year the Mexican authorities plan to open listed options market in Mexico for equities. Some time after that,

take off when all are available, the stock market may offer The market in tailor-made derivatives on blue-chip Mexican equities, debt instruments or the peso

is thriving

listed options on the peso, and interest rates, and future contracts on baskets of stocks. No decision has yet been made about when to offer such prod-

The success of such markets depends on liquidity, how the clearing system is arranged, and restrictions on market makers, says Juan Jose Suarez, co-head of derivative products at Banamex, Mexico's largest bank. But if regulation is flexi-

and trading is liquid. "It would be very helpful [for Mexican derivatives] to develop a liquid and efficient futures market says Trey Rhine, a vice-president at Merrill Lynch, the market leader in Mexican derivatives. A futures market would stimulate liquidity in the underlying market and other derivatives, and help investors arbitrage price differences between assets that offer the

same return, ensuring a more

efficient market

considerable interest. "It's dif-

ficult to imagine the sort of

option, but there should be sig-

Participents stress the syn-

ergy between different deriva-

tive markets, suggesting that

derivative instruments will

nificant interest" he says.

volume traded on the Telmex

Many foreigners will still prefer to trade outside Mexico, if only because there are more comfortable dealing in dollardenominated options, and in their own time zone, says Jeremy Campbell-Lamerton, managing director of the London branch of Inverlat. Since the price of an option includes the implicit interest rates during the option's life span, investors will find it cheaper to buy a dollar option than a peso

option, if, as is now the case,

expected peso devaluation does not offset the peso/dollar interest rate differential. So far the signs from the authorities regarding regulation have been conflicting. On the one hand, Mexico's finance ministry is itself one of the world's largest users of options and futures, hedging against rises in US interest rates and falls in oil prices. It presumably would want to encourage the development of a domestic derivatives market to allow Mexican companies and inves-

tors to follow a similarly pru-

flexibility, the Securities and Exchange Commission finally gave Banamex permission to sell in Mexico an equity-line note, which gives investors in per cent of the unside of the stock market, and protects the principal. Previously such

In a possible sign of greater

dent financial strategy.

equity-derivative offerings. done by Banamex or US houses such as Merrill Lynch, have had to be offered offshore in Luxembourg.

However, the Central Bank remains worried about financial institutions' ability to manage the risks involved with derivatives. This was highlighted by last year's fiasco over ajustabonos (bonds that offer a real interest rate. that are, in effect, a play on future inflation rates) in which Mexican brokerages and banks lost at the very minimum huncreds of millions of dollars.

But just as Mexico found in the early 1980s that it was: impossible to prevent capital outflows even with capital controls, Mexico is finding that one way or another the derivative business has arrived. The question is whether it will continue to flourish outside Mexico, or whether it will be brought onshore.

Damian Fraser

EMERGING MARKETS

Limited scope for development

For the normal range of interest rate and foreign exchange risks encountered by companies in developing countries, however, it is possible to use some of the risk management techniques and instruments which have already been developed and put to use in the world's more sophisticated financial centres.

So far, the extent to which these risk management methods have been employed in the emerging markets is quite limited. As Ms Elizabeth Morrissey, managing partner of Kleiman International Consultants, the US-based consultancy which monitors emerging markets, points out: "Some of these countries barely have domestic bond markets, let alone their own derivatives markets."

Instead, companies in developing economies would tend to turn to US banks or the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank, for assistance in managing their foreign exchange or interest rate expo-We are seeing the increasing use of risk management instruments but it still

emphasis on structured deals which are tailored to the needs of the individual company. The use of derivatives is growing across the board in

markets is becoming more

prevalent, with an increasing

Companies in developing countries are just as exposed as their rivals in the west - if not not more so - to the vicissitudes of modern life

tends to be done on a 'deal by the emerging markets: what deal' basis," says Ms Morris-

Derivatives grew in the developed world so it's only natural they should percolate to less sophisticated financial centres," says Mr Mark Coombs, an emerging market specialist at ANZ Grindlays you tend to see is either investor-driven deals, where the investor wants to enhance his return through leveraging, or borrower-driven deals where the borrower is trying to hedge

a risk," says Mr Coombs. The IFC has assisted companies from a wide variety of developing countries - ranging

derivatives in the emerging up currency and interest rate swaps to manage their expo-

> To take one example, an Egyptian manufacturing concern which had secured lowcost yen financing to purchase Japanese equipment, suddenly found itself a victim of the appreciating yen. The company had mainly dollar revenues, so the yen's appreciation in the latter half of the 1980s meant that its financing costs soared. Each one yen decrease in the yen/dollar exchange rate cost the company an additional \$300,000 annually in interest

The IFC points out that for nearly three years the company was forced to accept the mismatch (of yen interest expenses and dollar revenues) because the international swap markets were effectively closed

to them. Eventually, with the help of the IFC, the company entered into a currency swap that exchanged a portion of its yen financing for dollar financ-

While the IFC was able to help in this instance, in many cases, companies in developing countries are denied the sort of access to risk management tools that western companies enjoy and employ Mr Glen highlights several

reasons why the use of risk management instruments may be restricted or limited, including credit considerations, regulation and the size of the transactions.

"The derivatives products markets are credit sensitive and as most long-term derivative securities involve credit risk, direct access generally is limited to companies having at least investment grade credit ratings," he says in his report.

Creditworthiness is a significant factor in pricing and access for swaps, making it difficult for developing country firms to have access to the international swap market. Without a track record or a credit rating, companies may not have access to risk management instruments. In cases where they do have access, it: may only be to short-term instruments, or the conditions: may stipulate the company post collateral which could make the deal more expensive.

In some developing countries, domestic financial regulations which prevent the use of risk management instruments - sometimes because the authorities are concerned that the fine line between use for speculation and use for hedge ing purposes might be blurred In some cases it may simply prove too costly to conduct the transaction; either because of the tax treatment or because of the rather small size of the deal itself.

Given these limitations, it could be some time before the use of derivatives is as widespread in the developing countries as in the western world.

Sara Webb

DER

* How Firms in Developing Countries Manage Rick, a discussion paper by Mr-Jack Glen, published by the International Finance Corporation.



100 Mar - New 1 ...

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

was not one of the first banks

to enter the derivatives mar-

ket. But in only a few years it

has become one of the domi-

a derivatives capacity which

covers the three main product

lines of interest rates, foreign

exchange and equities, and

encompasses over-the-counter

and exchange-traded business.

In a poll taken by Risk maga-

zine in September, SBC was

named as one of three market

leaders in the derivatives industry (the other two are

Bankers Trust and JP Mor-

SBC took a short cut by buy-ing a ready-made derivatives

business, rather than trying to

grow its own from a relatively

small, in-house capability, or

poaching teams from other firms. O'Connor Securities. a

specialist options trading firm

based in Chicago, possessed

not only expertise but also the

advanced technology required for such an operation.

The move was based on a

strong strategic view taken at

board level. In 1989, SBC set

down a long-term strategy, dubbed "Vision 2000", which

took the view that "the capital

markets of the 90s would be

nant forces in the market, with

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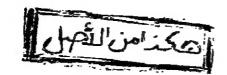
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DERIVATIVES 11

Profile: SWISS BANK CORPORATION

A short cut to domination

coming boom in derivatives business worldwide." A joint venture formed by SBC and O'Connor in 1990 was followed by a full merger of the two businesses in 1992 when SBC bought O'Connor. At the time of the joint ven-

driven by derivatives and risk

management products," according to Mr Marcel Ospel.

a member of the SBC executive

board. "This led SBC to explore

with O'Connor, already a lead-

ing player in US derivative

markets, the form a joint ven-

ture might take to exploit the

ture, O'Connor was looking at three-or four potential partners and SBC had been considering buying a US investment bank to get into the US market, particularly on the corporate finance side.

But these two rather unlikely bedfellows - a US proprietary trading firm and a Swiss bank - decided to brave the potential culture clash. O'Connor was a "blue jeans and T-shirts firm with a flat

level structure", said Ms Lesley Grant, a former O'Connor hand who now runs SBC's foreign exchange risk management advisory service worldwide.
It had a very special niche statistical arbitrage - which

involves investing heavily in systems to have better models and data which can identify anomalies in the market. In particular, the ability to forecast volatility accurately - a key element of pricing in the options market - was a

strength of O'Connor. O'Connor had been very successful first in trading options on the Chicago exchanges and then in the OTC market, but as the market became larger and more competitive its lack of a strong capital base became a restraint A joint venture with First Chicago in foreign exchange options was dis-solved due to lack of commitment on both sides.

At the same time, SBC had started a critical examination of its whole capital markets business in the wake of the 1987 crash - and had found a

number of weak points.
One of these was options.
"There was a clear gap that had to be filled," said Mr

Simon Bunce, head of interest rate derivative sales.

While there were tales of ructions during the joint ven-ture period, the seams between SBC and O'Connor are no lon-

ger obvious. Staff say the success of the merger is due to the fact that it was driven by need on both sides, and there was little over-lap. Although O'Connor staff were afraid of losing their special culture, the handling of the merger by senior staff on both sides helped. "Of the 21 partners at O'Connor, all became managing directors of SBC: no-one took early retirement and went to partner beaven," said Ms Grant. SBC took the approach of

integrating its newfound deriv-atives capacity with other jeans and T-shirts firm areas of business - probably more fraught with difficulty in the short term, but more effecquality of our derivatives education package which is run tive in the long term. To bring this about, there has been a from Chicago and networked huge investment in education throughout the world," said Mr Bunce. Unlike many other hanks, SBC staff are sent on two- to three-week courses. their mobile phones confiscated to sever contact. The integration of cash and

derivatives markets is most advanced in SBC's foreign exchange business, probably its strongest platform. SBC has trained its 170-

strong foreign exchange sales team to price and structure their own options so that they are now an integrated cash and derivatives sales team.

Other elements of the O'Connor legacy can be found in use of specialist analystic skills in areas such as risk eign exchange, interest rate and equities) has a global risk manager, who measures the bank's exposure, and in each case that function is provided by a former O'Connor partner. There are still some areas of

Although O'Connor brought in the US are still at an early

equity derivatives expertise to the table, SBC's cash market business in equities has still not recovered from its disas-trous "big bang" takeover of UK stockbroker Savory, Milln.

However, the bank now has a three-quarters formed traditional research and sales function with an industry thrust, in line with present trends.

"The O'Connor franchise in equity derivatives was already very strong," said Mr Steve Smith, head of equity derivative sales, and has allowed SBC to develop innovative retail products, such as guaranteed return instruments, high-yield unit trusts and warrant issues. One example is SBC's innova-tive bond issues with "knockout" warrants for Benetton and Roche.

SBC also produced an options package to protect Hongkong Land against a rise in the share price of Trafalgar House, when it took a 20 per cent stake in the UK property

company last year. SBC's other main weakness is geographical. Unlike the US firms which are its principal competitors, it cannot claim to have a truly global reach. Its efforts to develop a strong base

stage, and are hampered by its inability to merge operations because of the US Glass-Steagall law, which separates banking and securities busi-

One of the stated aims of Vision 2000 was to be among the world's 10 most profitable banks. Profitable, for banks, increasingly means return on equity: SBC's return on equity is around 10 per cent, rather than the 20 per cent returns shown by many US investment banks, which do not have the overheads of a clearing bank business. However, the capital markets and treasury division of SBC already makes a return on equity of more than 20 per

Its newfound derivatives strength has given the bank greater leverage across all its business areas. The last few years seem to have shown that the SBC planners got it right: derivatives have become the key strategic market in the 1990s and SBC is well positioned to take advantage of the growth of the market.

You can develop so much works " said Mr Bunce

Tracy Corrigan

Profile: MCDONALD'S

Cutting costs of hamburgers

THE world of derivatives, can do, is make a loan at 150 McDonald's Corporation is a typical user. It is a large company, which, because a lot of its earnings and borrowings emanate from overseas, faces currency and interest rate

risks in many markets. What makes McDonald's particularly interesting, however, is that there can be few compa-lies where the benefits of derivatives are so clearly apparent - not just to the chief financial officer and corporate treasurer, but to the thousands of people across the world who run restaurants under the famous yellow arch. They, as much as anyone, have been able to enjoy the rewards of

derivatives. Mr Carleton D Pearl, McDonald's treasurer, explains how its franchisees are able to use derivative instruments to cut the cost of their borrowings. "There are programmes run by our banks that finance the franchisee, which include a cap in the cost of the loan. What is interesting about that is, if sized business owner, and you're trying to put a cap on a prime rate loan in the US, you would have to figure out how any options you would need buy on an exchange. Now, with that? What the banker

basis points over commercial paper, or a loan at 175 over commercial paper, and promise you that you'll never have to pay more than 10 per cent." In other words, says Mr

Pearl, "derivatives can deliver value to small- and mediumsized businesses by enabling them to manage risks that they're not equipped to manage. Most people think deriva-



tives are for large companies with big staffs. Our banks have found a way to deliver these instruments so that the small business owner can use them."

Mr Pearl clearly likes to spread the derivatives gospel. He was one of the co-authors of into derivatives published this summer, a report that essentially gave the business a clean bill of health.

One point on which the G30 placed particular emphasis, was the notion of accountability - the need for the financial

officers at companies who use derivatives to keep their senior managers and boards of directors fully informed, both of their activities and the extent of their company's exposures.

It is a message that Mr Pearl says McDonald's has always taken seriously. "We have extensive discussions with the board of directors about these instruments. It's been an ongoing dialogue. In the early days we reported on each transaction we did. To this day, every time they meet we give them a report on our derivatives portfolio marked to market. And for our own senior management, we prepare a report which looks at not only the exposure on a marked-to mar-ket basis, but which also provides an analysis of our potential exposures."

He has been McDonald's treasurer since 1968, but the company first began using the products in the early 1980s. Back then, it was a natural progression from the risk management techniques McDon-Mr Pearl.

"We started doing parallel loans in the early 80s, and the next step from parallel loans to swaps was relatively straightforward. If you have been doing three-month foreign exchange contracts, the move

tracts is one that carries somewhat of a different risk, but you're moving along a spectrum, and thus not doing something totally new."

Mr Pearl says the company embraced derivatives early on because they offered a better, and often cheaper, way to control risk, and since the early days it has not strayed that far from the plain vanilla derivatives products that hedge interest rate and currency risk. A look at its derivatives portfolio would show that the company is involved in almost 100 trans actions, with 23 different counterparties in 12 currencies.

The chief motivation has always been saving money. "It's critical to understand this about what we do here - our job is to reduce all the costs as much as possible, so we can deliver the best value hamburger to our customers. Therefore, if we can reduce the cost of financings and land acquisitions and construction we can lower the cost of selling That is our objective. We are not here to run another busi-

ness trading derivatives." The cost savings can come in a variety of ways, says Mr Pearl. "For example, if our cash flows and cash needs change, and our view of markets change, to go out and call a bond issue, or buy it in the market and reissue shorterterm or longer-term floating debt, can be a very expensive proposition. However, doing it through derivatives is very much easier and much less

expensive."
Derivatives also provide the company with more flexibility in its financings. "We did a Danish krona financing - fixed rate krona with US dollar commercial paper. Therefore, we got Danish krona fixed-rate loans at 100 basis points below local financing sources. This, at a time when the local bond market did not do fixed rate financing." Mr Pearl also cites an example of how the company used equity options to reduce the cost of a \$700m stock buy-back prograu Occasionally, McDonald's employs more complex, hybrid

few years ago when they issued inverse floating rate bonds with coupons that, if interest rates went down, the rate went up. "We swapped those into commercial paper borrowings. It was pretty esoteric, but the essence of the deal was that we created finan-cing below the cost of our commercial paper financing."

Lesley Grant: O'Connor was a blue

McDonald's does not use derivatives in a speculative fashlon, to earn a profit from the products. "I've often been asked about whether we make money. Well, we don't keep track of it that way. We think of each financing, and ask: does it make economic sense relative to the alternatives?"

The number of staff working with derivatives at McDonald's is small. Mr Pearl has five with him - one director, two managers and two analysts - out of a total of 30.

It was different in the early 1980s, when derivatives were still new, and only a few corporations were using them. Mr Pearl can get nostalgic about the early days. "The economics used to be much better. We used to be able to do some swaps that got us 100 basis points below libor. Sadly, those days are gone forever."

Patrick Harverson | position as the only futures the immediate transfer of

Profile: LONDON CLEARING HOUSE

Unsung hero is unique

TUCKED away in the back streets of the City of London is the unsung hero of the capi-tal's rapidly-growing derivatives industry, the London Clearing House (LCH).

LCH, which was founded in 1888 to clear coffee and sugar trades, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the financial integrity and the efficiency of four of London's exchanges.

These are the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), the London Commodity Exchange (LCE), the London Interna-tional Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) and the London Metal Exchange (LME).

LCH meets its two main priorities through its primary role as the central counterparty for trades executed on the four exchanges. Its ability to take on counterparty risk provides a solid trading framework for its 171 members because their counterparty risk is considerably reduced and market liquidity is enhanced.

In addition, LCH's unique

clear several markets and dif-ferent products through a centralised and automated system has allowed members to make considerable savings in their

settlement costs. "Members with positions on all four markets can cover all their liabilities with one single payment," says Mr David Hardy, LCH's managing direc-

LCH controls the risk of being exposed to a potential default by a member in two ways, through counterparty ssessment and margining.
Applicants for LCH member-

ship are vetted thoroughly before they become members and LCH continuously reviews existing members to ensure they satisfy the following crite-

■ Relevant exchange membership;
Relevant authorisation

under the Financial Services Act of 1986: Banking arrangements for

■ Adequate resources to comply with day-to-day requirements of LCH membership; ■ Minimum financial resource requirements.

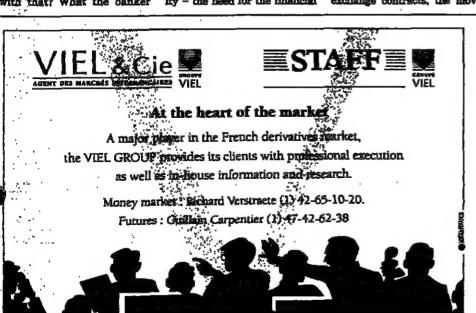
LCH monitors each member's risk exposure on all four exchanges and analyses it in relation to their ability to cover their liabilities.

If the LCH believes that a member's business is out of line with its resources - for example, it might have an unusually large position or a concentration of its margin in a single contract - it will ask the member to put up addi-tional resources or ask it to

restrict its business volume. So far, LCH has managed to assess its counterparties with a high degree of accuracy and in its 105-year history it has only had to expel one member, a subsidiary of BCCI, in 1987.

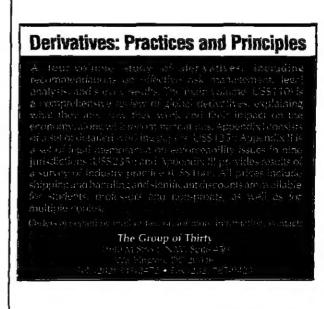
The other way in which LCH dampens down its risk profile is by setting margins which

Continued on page 12











And OMLX, The London Securities and Derivatives Exchange, is rising fast.

Already, it's part of the 4th-largest equity derivatives market in Europe.

Tomorrow, as alarm.

Harrison Willis City specialise in the recruitment of

experienced Derivatives Personnel working within

the Interest Rate, Currency, Equity, Capital and Commodity Markets incorporating operational,

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Management, Stuart Norbury for Capital Markets or

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professionals.

SPECIALISTS

WITHIN

DERIVATIVES

Tomorrow, as electronic access is provided to a growing range of international equity derivatives.

electronic dealing system - which can be quickly

confidently expect a highly interesting reply.

Asset allocation: dividing Investment funds among diversification or maximum

As-you-like option (or chooser option or the call-or-put option) enables the holder to convert from one style of option to a different style of option over a preset period of time.

Average rate option (or Asian option): an option in which the settlement is based on the difference between the given strike and the average prices of the underlying stock or index on selected dates.

Barrier options: a family of path-dependent options whose pay-off pattern and survival to the expiration date depend not only on the final price of the underlying security but also on whether or not the underlying security sells at or goes through a pre-determined barrier at any time during the life of the option.

Various Barrier options include:

Continued from page 11

collateral.

are calculated daily and which-

members have to cover daily with a deposit of funds or with

Margin, which is a measure

of the risk of a member's posi-

tions, has two main compo-

nents: initial margin to provide

cover for potential adverse

movements and variation mar-

gin to cover previous price

Mr Hardy says that margins

are essential so that markets

can be seen to be able to trade

in times of extreme price vola-

tility but at the same time pro-

vide protection for members by

not allowing their liabilities

and resources to get out of bal-

For example, during the Gulf

War, margin rates were

increased substantially to

reflect the big swings in the price of gas oil futures. LCH

asked members to improve

their resources by way of bank

Down-and-out call/put: an option which expires worthless if the market price of the underlying security

drops below a pre-determined price.

Down-and-in call/put: an option which becomes effective if the market price of the underlying security drops below a pre-determined price.

Up-and-out call/put: an option that expires worthless if the market price of the underlying security rises above a pre-determined

Up-and-in call/put: an option that becomes effective if the market price of the underlying security rises above a predetermined

Best-of-two option (or either-or option or alternative option): provides the option holder with a payoff based on the independent performances of two separate and distinct securities or

Box options: a tax efficient method of using cash to generate capital gains, while maintaining a conservative investment approach to funds management. Instead of placing cash in a money market instrument and

lised the bank guarantees were

"Margining can be seen as

the barometer of the volatility in the market and it serves to

neutralise the risk," says Mr

He adds that LCH and its

members are given additional

protection by the diverse

nature of the markets and the

at any one time," he says, not-

ing that during the stock mar-

ket crashes of 1987 and 1989

there was hardy any reaction

on the other exchanges. LCH regularly holds more

than £1bn in cash in margin

money which it invests in over-

night money markets. It pays

nembers interest on their mar-

gins – usually the bid rate on

the London interbank rate

(Libor) minus % - and very

often members leave more

money than they have to with

LCH because of the favourable

interest rate.

The risks will be different

products cleared by LCH.

returned to the members.

Unsung hero is unique

Hardy.

GIVEN the rapid growth in the being launched, it is hardly surprising that newcomers to the industry are confused or misled by the terminology. In addition, the vast difference between the perceived meaning and the actual meaning of many of the terms poses serious problems for the industry's regulators, lawyers and insurers.

In a recent paper, Mr Graham Cox, group economist at the Sun Life Assurance Society, points out that very often the perceived meaning of a "hedge fund" is a fund with all risk eliminated by the use of hedging postions, whereas the actual meaning is a portfolio of leveraged positions. normally including derivatives. Mr Cox notes that there have been

the various functions and products in the derivatives industry, but with little success so far. However, there are numerous dictionaries which give lucid

effective and less misleading names for

explanations of the jargon and many banks and securities houses which trade in derivatives have published useful information packs detailing how the more complicated products work.

amounts of two currencies at

the spot exchange rate. Over

the term of the agreement,

the counterparties exchange

fixed or floating rate interest

payments in their swapped

currencies. At maturity, the

their original currencies.

principal amount is reswapped

at a predetermined exchange

rate so the parties endup with

Deferred strike or deferred

option): allows the holder to

defer the setting of the strike

price until some future time,

up to an agreed deadline.

Derivative: a contract the

value of which changes in

movements in a related or

underlying commodity or

financial instrument. The term

exchange-traded futures and

concert with the price

covers standardised.

start option for forward start

index while the other party agrees to pay a floating or fixed rate of interest. Exploding option (or one-touch option): a European-style call spread with an early exercise price trigger.

Floor: an aspect of a floating rate debt contract that specifies a minimum interest rate for a borrower.

Forward: an over-the-counter agreement for a buyer and seller to exchange a particular good for a particular price at a specified future date.

Futures contract: an agreement between a buyer and seller to exchange a particular good for a particular price at a future date as specified in a contract common to all participants in a market on an organised futures exchange. Collateral must be posted for performance bonds, and positions are marked to market at least once a day.

Hedge: a transaction that reduces risk of an underlying security or commodity position by making the appropriate offsetting derivative transaction. Usually limits potential reward of the underlying position.

Hybrid security: a complex security consisting of virtually any combination of two or more risk management building blocks - bond or note, forward, future, or option.

Interest-rate swap: the exchange between counterparties of fixed-rate and floating-rate debt in a single

currency. Ladder option (or step-Lock option): provides the holder with a mechanism of locking

in gains on an underlying security during the life of the option, before its expiry. Lookback option: an option the payout of which is

calculated using the highest intrinsic value of the underlying security or Index over the life of the option, in the case of a Lookback call, the highest market price is used whereas for a Lookback put, the lowest market price is used.

Outperformance option: a call option which allows an investor to capitalise on diverging performances of two underlying securities, which can be individual stocks. customised baskets of stocks or a specific index.

Put option: the right to sell a particular stock, bond, commodity or index at a specified future date at a

specified price.

Quanto option (or guaranteed exchange rate option or currency protected option): an option in which foreign exchange risks in an underlying security have been eliminated.

Risk reversal: this strategy combines the purchase of a put option with the sale of a call option. The put option preserves the capital value of



the shareholding while the sale of a call option reduces or eliminates the cost of this insurance, at the expense of giving up some of the upside potential of the stock.

Swap: a contract to exchange a stream of periodic payments with a counterparty. Swaps are available in and between all active financial markets.

Swaption: an option to enter into a swap contract.

l'exas hedge: a transaction that increases risk; two or more related positions whose risk is additive, rather than .. offsetting.

Warrant: an option to purchase or sell an underlying instrument at a given price and time or series of prices and . times. A warrant differs from a put or call option in that its is ordinarily issued for longer than a year.

Sources: Dictionary of finencial risk management, by Gary Gastineau, Option voletility and pricing strategies, by Sheldon Natenberg; Equity derivatives glossary published by Swiss Bank Corporation

Meaningful expressions

derivatives industry and the increasingly exotic nature of the products which are

attempts in the past to sort out more

generating interest income, equity options are purchased the payoffs of which create capital gains that can be offset against current capital

Call option: the right to buy a given stock, commodity, index, or futures contract at fixed price on or before a specified date.

Cap: contract between a borrower and a lender where the borrower is assured that he will not have to pay more than some maximum interest

David Hardy: one payment covers

the margins forms part of

LCH's income. As well as keep-

ing transaction costs down, the

interest income helps LCH

achieve its third priority, that

is, making a sensible profit for

UK clearing banks: Barclays

Bank, Lloyds Bank, Midland

LCH is owned by six leading

its owners.

rate on borrowed funds. Clearing house: an affiliate of a futures or options

counterparty to every trade, reducing credit risk.

contract that establishes both

interest rate to be paid by the

a maximum and minimum

Contango: a condition in a

distant delivery months trade

at a premium to the near term

position. Calls are sold on the

underlying security with strikes

market price. The strike price

popular option strategies,

which are higher than the

chosen limits the profit a

security holder can realis

from the position and this

strategy is best used when

the holder is fairly certain that

there will be little movement

in the security's share price.

using an existing equity

delivery months.

Collar: a floating rate debt

Laurie Morse draw on the large mass of literature to compile a glossary of words and terms used in the derivatives industry

· Financial Times writers Antonia Sharpe and

exchange which matches and guarantees trades and holds performance bonds posted by dealers. Acts as a

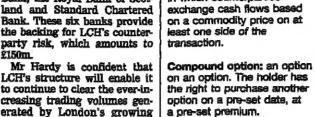
Commodity Swap: a swap in which counterparties Bank, the Royal Bank of Scot-

Mr Hardy is confident that LCH's structure will enable it

By October 7, LCH had cleared 112.5m contracts, exceeding the total number of trades cleared during the whole of last year. Total vol-ume for this year is expected to reach 155m contracts.

ensure that it can continue to provide an uninterrupted clearing service for the exchanges if its systems fail or if its build-

west London where it also has office space. "LCH has a triangulated pro-vision of service," says Mr

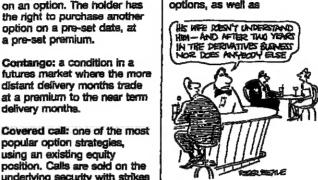


to continue to clear the ever-increasing trading volumes generated by London's growing derivatives industry.

LCH has also taken steps to

ing is out of action. All its computers are now located in south London and there is a back-up system in

Currency swap: an exchange



over-the-counter swaps. options, and other customised

Equity swap: a contract between two counterparties to exchange two different cashflows over time. Over the life of the swap one party agrees to pay the rate of return on an equity or the equity



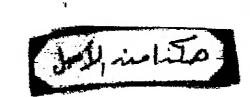
From exploring traditional alternatives to seeking innovative opportunities, clients rely on Citibank's global derivatives team for risk management solutions.

BECAUSE Citibank builds strong client relationships. From risk identification to solution, from interest rates to equities, from simple swaps to exotic options, from reducing financing costs to enhancing yields, the Citibank derivatives team solves risk management issues for borrowers and investors. B E C A U S E Citibank has superior global reach. Citibank spans over 90 countries, bringing unparalleled market access and local market knowledge to

clients. BECAUSE Citibank is a leader in derivatives Citibank completes more transactions, in more products, in more currencies, with more clients, in more countries than any other financial institution. BECAUSE THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

CITIBANCO





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Exclusive Saturday

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